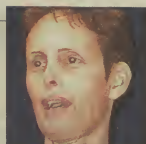


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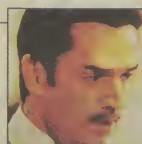
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Positive energy
GenderPAC conference
brings 1,000 people to D.C.

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Oscar Wilde enough?
Rupert Everett stars in
'Importance of Being Earnest.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 21 • 23 May 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment introduced

by Bob Roehr

They're back — those social conservatives who believe that the way to "save" heterosexual marriage from dissolution and divorce is to prevent homosexuals from getting married. And the best way to do that is by passing a law, more specifically an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

That amendment was introduced on May 15 as House Joint Resolution 93. It reads in full: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

The lead sponsor is Representative Ronnie Shows (D-Mississippi), with eight co-sponsors, five Republicans, two other Democrats, and an independent who used to be a Democrat.



Rep. Ronnie Shows

"I am convinced that our nation will need to take the extraordinary step of amending the Constitution in order to preserve the legal status of marriage and the family for future generations," said Shows. "These values transcend political boundaries in the same way that they transcend all racial, cultural, and religious lines." A constitutional amendment requires passage by a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the states. It has been used only rarely, and often largely for technical changes, since the Bill of Rights was adopted as a condition that many colonies set for joining the federal union at the time of the nation's founding.

Fomenting this tilting at windmills is a group called the Alliance for Marriage, led by Matt Daniels. Last July, it held a news conference at the National Press Club to launch the effort, but it has taken 10 months to find a congressman to actually initiate the amendment process.

Daniels claims that they are protecting the American people from activist courts that are "distorting" existing law in order to promote a gay marriage agenda. By passing this amendment they would return power to the people to decide this issue.

"Our nation cannot go forward
page 8 ►



Rick Gerhardt

Following a rain-drenched march, the 19th AIDS Candlelight Vigil Sunday, May 19 ended at the San Francisco Public Library, where many of the 300 participants left their candles at a makeshift altar to remember those who have died of AIDS.

More than a safe-sex poster Groups work to battle AIDS in API community

by Matthew S. Bajko

Battling AIDS in the Asian and Pacific Islander community is a daunting task. With APIs comprising more than 49 different nationalities that speak over 100 languages and dialects, targeting API gay and bisexual men takes more than a simple safe-sex poster.

"A program for Hawaiians is not the same for Hindu Indians," said Edd Lee, associate director of prevention services at the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

The category of API is so vast, stretching from Hawaii across the Pacific to Central and Southeastern Asian countries, even getting the disparate groups to work together can at times present unique challenges.

"For some of these people, at home their countries are at war with the people in America who are now supposed to be in their community," explained Lee, who is a community co-chair of the city's HIV Prevention Planning

Council. "There is misunderstanding and need for communication within our own community."

There are cultural, linguistic, socio-economic, and legal barriers to HIV prevention and care among APIs, including cultural avoidance of issues around sex and sexuality, substance use, illness, and death. Many APIs believe that same-sex relationships are a Western phenomenon that does not exist in their communities.

In addition, although API gay and bisexual men are at significant risk for HIV, the lack of peer and community support for sexual and racial diversity often are barriers to self-esteem and positive self-identity, according to a report by the API Wellness Center.

Foreign-born APIs may have low or no English skills, and very few programs provide interventions in API languages. Many have had negative experiences with government institutions and fear deportation by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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GAPA members, like these at a recent "rap session," hope to reach out to the API community around HIV/AIDS issues.

Being gay shouldn't be an issue, SF archbishop says

by Joe Dignan

On the eve of a vigil planned by Dignity/San Francisco to get San Francisco Archbishop William Levada to improve accountability locally in light of the sex scandal rocking the Catholic Church, a spokesman for Levada said that the archbishop believes that sexual orientation should not be a factor in deciding if a seminarian should be allowed to become a priest.

The spokesman, Maurice Healy, made his comments to the *Bay Area Reporter* this week. Dignity/SF plans a May 25 public witness and vigil outside St. Mary's Cathedral. According to Paul Ziller and Ted Maylath of Dignity/SF, the group of LGBT Catholics wants Levada to make a statement that standards for seminarians and priests will be behavior-based, not based on sexual orientation.

"We believe that the issue is not orientation — it's whether you'll make a good priest," said Healy, who also edits the archdiocese's weekly newspaper, *Catholic San Francisco*.

Nationally, Catholics are preparing for the bishops' conference next month in Dallas, where the sex abuse scandal is certain to be the main topic of discussion.

Conservatives in the church have blamed the scandals on homosexuals in the priesthood and have linked homosexuality to child abuse. "We feel a person who is homosexual-oriented is not a suitable candidate for the priesthood even if he had never committed any homosexual act," said Cardinal

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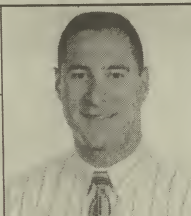
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Positive Resource Ctr. names interim director

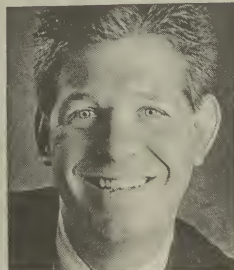
by Matthew S. Bajko

As Positive Resource Center continues to search for funding sources, the nonprofit agency has turned to an outside consultant to see it through to 2003. The agency announced this month it has named John Lipp as its interim executive director.

Lipp, who began work Monday, May 13, has been hired as a temporary employee initially for six months at \$6,500 per month. He anticipates staying up to 10 months as the agency searches for a permanent executive director.

"The first thing I am doing is working with the staff to get a thorough understanding of the day-to-day operations and a clear sense of what resources we need to move forward," said Lipp, who is openly gay and has worked in the nonprofit sector for 15 years. "If we need to make changes, see what those changes are."

The arrival of Lipp marks a turnaround for the agency, which only five months ago was fearful it would have to close its doors. Last fall, the agency learned its application for a \$735,000 U.S. Department of Education grant had been denied. In December, its executive director resigned and the board of directors voted to layoff several staff members.



PRC's John Lipp

The agency helps people living with AIDS sort through the maze of benefits and offers job counseling services.

In January, PRC turned to the community to raise \$175,000 by March in order to stabilize its first quarter cash flow and pay employees. The money represented 15 percent of PRC's \$1.2 million budget for this year.

With assistance from the community and its clients, the agency was able to keep its doors open throughout the winter and spring. Then last month, at the request of Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), Governor Gray Davis directed a grant of \$150,000 through the Employment Development Department to the agency. PRC also received a grant from the Horizons Foundation to

help it through the summer.

Now, the agency must secure funding for the future and is continuing its fundraising efforts within the community. A nationwide search for a new executive director is already under way.

When he applied for the interim position, Lipp said he was not aware of the agency's precarious financial state. While his assignment poses serious challenges, Lipp said seeing the staff and community's support for the agency makes it a little less daunting.

"There is a real sense of teamwork around here. It's been a real rough couple of months. The staff and board pulled together to work as a team to stabilize the organization," said Lipp. "For an interim executive director to come in with that foundation and positive energy that has been created by the staff and board it gives you a very good starting point."

So that the agency does not find itself in the same predicament as it did last fall, Lipp said his top priority is to secure separate funding sources for PRC.

"We definitely are stabilized right now. It gives us breathing room. At the same time, it is critical that we look at all of our fundraising and fundraising strategies so we don't find ourselves being held hostage by one or two key funding sources in the future," said Lipp. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Ammiano addresses Alice B. Toklas Club

by Cynthia Laird

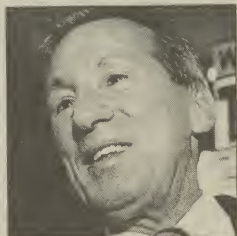
Looking to mend some political fences as he begins another run for mayor of San Francisco, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano addressed the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club last week and with some candor, admitted that he may have "missed" steps and that his door should be "more open" to club members, many of whom often disagree with him.

Club members meeting at the LGBT Community Center on May 13 gave Ammiano a warm welcome, despite the fact that he endorsed former Supervisor Harry Britt in the March primary for the 13th District Assembly seat over Alice's pick, Supervisor Mark Leno.

It was Leno who introduced Ammiano at the meeting. Ammiano, in turn, said he was "250 percent" supportive of Leno's Assembly bid now that the primary is over; the supervisor faces a GOP candidate in November but is expected to win in the heavily Democratic 13th District.

During his remarks, Leno said the two gay supervisors have accomplished a lot for the city, but there have also been challenges.

Ammiano started his talk by saying that he likes district elections and thinks they are working. He also spoke about his process



Supervisor Tom Ammiano

for selecting board appointments to committees, something that has concerned Alice Club members, some of whom feel they're not being seriously considered because of differing political beliefs.

"Should my door be more open to people from Alice B. Toklas?" Ammiano asked. "You bet."

Asked about people within the LGBT community scapegoating others in the community, Ammiano said, "I think it's time for some healing and fence-mending. There are those outsiders who get off on conflict and square off and draw a line in the sand."

The key, Ammiano said, is communication. Though he acknowledged that not all in the LGBT community will forget the past.

"Some of us will not put certain things aside and I understand that."

Regarding his run for mayor in 2003, Ammiano said that he be-

lieves he could be "more cooperative" working on the homeless issue if he's elected.

Alice Club co-chair Theresa Sparks told the *Bay Area Reporter* that in general, club members felt Ammiano's appearance before the club was a start, but they would take a wait and see approach.

"It's all going to depend on what happens next," Sparks said. "Will he lean forward and start including us?"

Sparks said that some members were surprised at Ammiano's candor.

"My feeling from the executive committee of the Milk Club is that it wants a truce," Ammiano said, apparently referring to the divisiveness the two clubs have exhibited during previous political campaigns. "Mark [Leno] and myself can help both clubs fashion something less obnoxious than in the past."

"I'm very interested ... in listening more and reacting less," he added.

Debra Walker, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, pointed out that the club had Leno as a guest at its April meeting, where he discussed campaign finance reform. She said she's interested in working with both supervisors.

"I'm all for that," she told the B.A.R. "We're way more interested in finding solutions to problems than in creating some." ▼



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QAF's 'Chink-O-Rama' show challenges Asian stereotypes

by Zak Szymanski

Esther Lee generally doesn't go out to see performances. But after reading about the Queer Arts Festival's *Chink-O-Rama*, which debuts June 5, she is strongly considering a night out at the theater.

"*Chink-O-Rama* is a hilarious send-up of Asian stereotypes served in a cultural-activist style. Come see why all the roundeyes are freaking out!" states the show's promotional material.

"Now that's funny," said Lee, an aide to state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), and one of many who objected to Abercrombie and Fitch's stereotypical portrayals of Asians last month. The clothing retailer issued — and then recalled — several T-shirts depicting slanty-eyed characters including a "Wong Brothers Laundry: Two Wongs Can Make it White" shirt.

Expect nothing less from *Chink-O-Rama*, which guarantees a host of Asian stereotypes like sweatshop workers, Vietnamese war brides, camera-toting Japanese tourists, lotus blossoms, and

kung-fu kickers.

Although Lee believes the timing of *Chink-O-Rama* may confuse some people who were offended by Abercrombie's racism-for-profit, she draws an important distinction between how Asians are seen through white eyes and what *Chink-O-Rama* is attempting to do.

"It's not so funny to see something Asian on a very white upper class Ivy League body," said Lee. "The designers of those shirts were far enough removed from real images that they didn't know any better portrayals."

Chink-O-Rama, on the other hand, is Asian-produced (its writer, Kate Rigg, is half Indonesian) and seeks to demonstrate the absurdity of such images.

"It seems that she hopes to educate people on the cultural differences," said Lee. "Some people will look at Abercrombie shirts and don't even realize the different cultures mixed into one theme. These stereotypes are already happening, so this is one way the community can take control of them."

Tamara Ching, an AIDS prevention program director at the

South East Asian Community Center in San Francisco, concurs.

"When Asians do it, it's okay," said Ching. "It's easier to laugh at ourselves and the images of us that are out there than to have someone else laughing at us. It's just like when gay people call each other fags and dykes. It's not hurtful when it's not coming from the other side."

In fact, if anyone will be offended by Rigg's show, some reviews have noted, it will be white men, who are the targets of her critique and will find themselves portrayed interchangeably as Australians and Canadians. This again should demonstrate to non-Asians how foolish it is to assume one cultural experience based on appearance, supporters of the show noted.

Chink-O-Rama will play Wednesday-Sunday, June 5-16 at 8 p.m. at the Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street, at York. Tickets are \$24 and available at www.brava.org. More information on the show is available at www.queerculturalcenter.org, under the Queer Arts Festival link. ▼

Sheriff's Dept. promotes lesbian to captain

by Zak Szymanski

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department has one more lesbian to look up to with the announced promotion of Connie O'Connor to the rank of captain.

O'Connor, appointed by Sheriff Michael Hennessey in February with an official ceremony held last week, is now the second-highest ranking lesbian in the Sheriff's Department, according to department spokeswoman Susan Fahey, who noted openly lesbian Chief Deputy Jan Dempsey's appointment last year. There are just nine captains in the sheriff's department, and O'Connor is also now one of the highest ranking women in Bay Area law enforcement.

A fourth generation San Franciscan, O'Connor joined the Sheriff's Department in 1975 where she has managed the women's work furlough program, and was in charge of the women's maximum security facility at the Hall of Justice. Currently the facility commander of County Jail #3, O'Connor also serves on the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, was on the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission under former Mayor Art Agnos, and is a past



Sheriff Michael Hennessey, right, congratulates Captain Connie O'Connor.

president of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

"Captain O'Connor is one of the Sheriff Department's most effective resources," said Hennessey. "Her many years of civic involvement and departmental experience combined with her effective management skills continue to most ably serve the mission of the Sheriff's Department."

Hennessey also credited O'Connor with reaching out to

LGBT people and helping to attract new employees; O'Connor participated in the department's poster campaign and was part of a team that visited area bars to discuss her work with community members.

"Captain O'Connor's vital role in community recruitment efforts have made an invaluable contribution to the diversity that the San Francisco Sheriff's Department now enjoys," said Hennessey. ▼

Still time to enter Parade, build a float

by Cynthia Laird

will be a free float-building workshop this Saturday, May 25.

The float-building workshop takes place at the committee's office, 1390 Market Street, Suite 903, at 2 p.m. The free float-building space is located at Pier 45. To RSVP for either the space or the workshop, people should call (415) 677-7964.

There's still time for people to

enter the parade or operate a booth at the festival. For applications, stop by the office Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or visit the Web site at www.sfpride.org and download a copy. There are fees for entering the parade or having a booth at the Pride festival. For more information, call (415) 864-0831. Pride weekend is June 29-30. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHAMP medical pot club closes

by Liz Highleyman

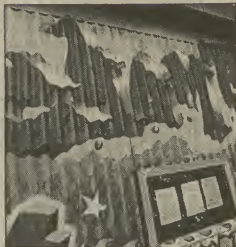
Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems – better known as CHAMP – closed its doors on Saturday, May 4, following a federal judge's unfavorable ruling in a case concerning similar cannabis buyers clubs.

CHAMP, located at the bustling corner of Church and Market streets, had grown to become one of the city's largest and longest operating cannabis clubs since its formation in October 1996. The club provided social services and community events, and was at the forefront of studying how different strains of cannabis and different delivery methods affected various medical conditions. CHAMP worked with Department of Public Health officials, legislators, and a consortium of other cannabis clubs to institute San Francisco's first-of-its-kind citywide medical marijuana patient identification card system.

CHAMP was serving 2,000 active members at the time of its closure.

"The day CHAMP closed was the worst day of my life," said CHAMP director Michael Aldrich. "My biggest concern is for our patients. For now, they have other places to help them. But what happens when they're all forced to close? It's literally a health crisis affecting thousands of people with AIDS, cancer, chronic pain, and other serious conditions in San Francisco."

On May 3, U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer denied a request to lift a 1998 injunction that prohibits the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative and other marijuana clubs named in a lawsuit from dispensing cannabis. That ruling followed a Supreme Court decision in May 2001 stating that cannabis has no recognized medical uses and that medical necessity may not be used by a providers' organization as a defense against prosecution under federal controlled substances laws. Medical marijuana advocates



CHAMP is closed.

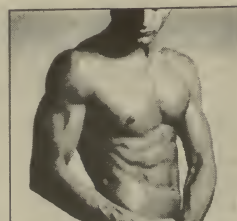
believe that Breyer's decision paves the way for action by the Drug Enforcement Administration against local clubs. With a permanent injunction, "at a minimum, they would have to close the remaining clubs covered by that injunction," said Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "Beyond that, they will apply it as many other places as they can. Every time they get a favorable decision, they move."

CHAMP attorney Bill Panzer said that if the club stayed open it would likely be a target of a federal raid.

CHAMP's decision to close voluntarily before being shut down was a difficult one, but Aldrich said resources would better be used elsewhere than in fighting a legal battle that essentially duplicates that of the OCBC.

"On the battlefield they're drawing for us, we can't win. They won't let us tell the truth in a courtroom, and they sure don't want us to tell a jury about the thousands of patients who find cannabis valuable for their medical conditions. Without truth, there can be no justice in the federal court system."

Instead, said Aldrich, "Right now I want to work with city officials to create a better system for the patients – a fully functioning cannabis therapy center. San Francisco is still a democracy. We believe in the voters and the patients, and this is the best city for support of medical marijuana in America." ▼



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UC extends retirement benefits to domestic partners

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a reversal of the 1997 show-down over health coverage for domestic partners, the University of California regents voted this month to extend retirement benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex domestic partners of university system employees without much of a fight.

The measure passed on the first try during the regents' meeting Thursday, May 16 at the University of California, Los Angeles. Five years ago, the vote on health coverage saw a more heated debate, with then-Republican Governor and board member Pete Wilson leading the opposition against the measure.

The regents at that time passed the measure to extend health coverage by only one vote, 13-12. This time, the only quarrels about retirement benefits focused not on gay couples but straight couples.

The measure to add domestic partners of the opposite sex tied in committee but was approved by the full board by 10-7. Those voting against the measure argued that unlike gay couples, heterosexual couples living together could get married and therefore did not need to be included.

A proposal to allow single people to designate a survivor did not pass. The change in benefits is estimated to cost the university system between \$9.1 million to \$11.5 million annually.

"I am delighted by the realization of what this will mean in our lives and the symbolic significance in the state and beyond," Shane Snowdon, coordinator of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resources at the University of California, San Francisco, told reporters after the vote. "I think that in five years there has really been a change in our culture and more acceptance of gay and lesbian partnerships and families." ▼

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The politics of fear and hate

If we were to assign a Tom Ridge-type color code to last week's announcement that some social conservatives in the House of Representatives had introduced a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, we'd have to pick yellow – for the cowardice shown by the handful of congressmembers who are part of this scheme.

Before we go any further, however, we must emphatically state that the odds of the Federal Marriage Amendment actually becoming part of the U.S. Constitution are remote. In their wisdom, the Founding Fathers made it extremely difficult to amend the Constitution. In fact, only 27 amendments have been made law in the past 200 years. The process is arduous: an amendment must first be introduced in both the House and the Senate; that hasn't happened yet. Last week's anti-gay amendment – sponsored by the right-wing, homophobic Alliance for Marriage – was only introduced in the House. If the sponsors somehow find a senator to take up the proposal in that chamber, the amendment must then pass both houses of Congress by two-thirds, not a simple majority. If that happens, then the proposed amendment goes to the 50 state legislatures, three-quarters of which must approve it. Those are very long odds.

Considering gays and lesbians are already saddled with the hideous Defense of Marriage Act, which bans federal recognition of same-sex marriage, one wonders why this amendment is even being proposed. But unlike DOMA, the Federal Marriage Amendment would prohibit states from recognizing any marriages that are not between a man and a woman, regardless of whether citizens of a state support such a law. That the proposed amendment is so extreme is another reason we believe it won't garner serious consideration in Congress.

Even some Republicans in the House have indicated that they won't support the proposed amendment. The Bush administration, while certainly not as friendly to gays as was the Clinton administration, has indicated that it sees no need for the amendment. It's significant that after the Alliance for Marriage held a press conference (with great fanfare) announcing its planned amendment last July, it has taken nearly a year for frontman Matt Daniels to find the half dozen or so House members to actually introduce the measure.

And what a bunch of winners they are. Lead sponsor Representative Ronnie Shows

(D-Mississippi) is a Blue Dog Democrat (read: conservative Democrat). Readers may recall that other infamous Blue Dog Democrat (Modesto Congressman Gary Condit) from the news a year ago as authorities were searching for an intern who disappeared from her Washington, D.C. apartment and was reported to be Condit's mistress.

Shows told reporters last week that the amendment is a "reasonable and measured response to an ongoing and accelerated abuse of power by the American courts." But that is not accurate. Courts are regularly denying same-sex couples the right to civil marriage. Just a couple of weeks ago in Massachusetts, seven same-sex couples who wanted marriage licenses were denied by a trial court judge.

No, the real motivator behind Shows's proposed amendment is the politics of fear: Fear of change (if gay and lesbian couples were allowed to legally marry) mixed with hatred of gays and lesbians. The proposed amendment is being introduced as an election-year gimmick to placate social conservatives and right-wingers, by targeting gay and lesbian couples for discrimination. The Human Rights Campaign jumped on that fact when it denounced the proposal last week.

We expect that most politicians will see through this veiled attempt. For one thing, marriage has been a states' rights issue and thus not one for the federal government. Given that Republicans in particular traditionally defend states' rights to block the federal government's involvement in social programs or other matters, it seems to us to smack of hypocrisy should they line up behind this proposal.

Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) went on the record last July after the Alliance for Marriage news conference and told a local newspaper that he would oppose a federal amendment. "I don't think the Constitution was ever written and set up for those kinds of amendments," Hagel told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "I think those kinds of issues are best left to the states."

If the wrongly named Alliance for Marriage were really concerned with strengthening the institution of marriage in this country, it would embrace marriage for all – including same-sex couples. Many of us are in committed relationships like our heterosexual counterparts, and would tie the knot if we could. We should be given that opportunity, rather than be scapegoated continually as freaks that don't deserve the same rights as every straight person in this country. ▼

Editorial



Gay men care about health

by Larry Hanbrook

Doesn't it seem that recent news about gay men's health, both in the community press and mainstream media, is mostly about how reckless and irresponsible we are? Circuit parties are vividly described as risky, self-destructive orgies. Headlines shout that our Internet "hook-ups" spread disease. We hear how many of us use too much alcohol, all sorts of illegal drugs, and abuse prescription drugs like Viagra. Read too much of this and you'll be convinced that we're all drowning in desire to hurt ourselves and could care less about each other. We sure hear a lot about what we've been doing "wrong" these days.

As a member of a group calling ourselves "Castroguys," a volunteer community advisory board for a new type of gay men's health and wellness center in the Castro, I can tell you that's a skewed perspective. Last month, we tried something we called "Spring Cleaning," and I'm glad to say it was a very different story. This campaign was picked up by the local news media, some of us even got 15 seconds of fame on television, but they missed the real story. Spring Cleaning was a collaborative effort to encourage sexually active gay men to take an STD test in April, and we offered goodies such as discounts donated by neighborhood businesses in the Castro or passes donated by participating sex clubs. Of course, the media pounced on the sex club aspect! The

campaign we created was innovative and journalistically juicy in many other ways, but sadly, the mainstream media spun it with the scandalous flavor of "look what gay men are doing wrong!" Reporters looked for the standard story line of self-destructive gay men with no self-control, mostly asking: "Do we really have to offer bribes to get them to take care of themselves?"

What the media didn't come back to see is our success, especially the dozens of gay men who got tested, got their results, and took action for themselves. Word got out, people participated and responded favorably. And, it wasn't "bribes" that really did it. Almost nobody who participated in Spring Cleaning knew about the incentives beforehand, though as a reward I'm sure the perks sent a unique, strong message of community support. I think it worked because – contrary to popular opinion – gay men are basically healthy people who will take care of themselves if given the opportunity. The community response to Spring Cleaning was an illustration of how ready, willing, and able we are. The services were heavily utilized – many people got tested for a few STDs at once or took both an STD and an HIV test, and many more were at least interested in getting some health information. This is the story we don't see: "Many Gay Men Care About Their Health."

We have our own range of health issues

as gay men, as individuals and as a community. HIV disease is still a leading concern, but it's not the whole story. We look around and see STD rates rising, drug use is high, depression seems endemic, many of us feel isolated and alone in what is supposed to be our homeland, and some of us feel alarmed and frustrated. The causes are many and complex, and it is not simply a matter of gay men's wrongdoing or finding a single "right" answer. As Spring Cleaning indicates, if given appropriate opportunities we will take care of ourselves – and perhaps even take better care of each other. Castroguys intends to make more of these opportunities happen.

Later this year, we'll be creating a space in the Castro offering a wide range of sexual and other health information and resources specifically for gay men. There will be some clinical services as well, provided in a relaxed and convenient setting. While we are heartened by the positive response to Spring Cleaning, we will not rest until there are better health services for gay men, located in at least one of the major centers of our community. For more information or to get involved, please visit our Web site at www.Castroguys.org.

Thanks again to everybody who worked together on this and to everybody who made the time and made a difference by participating. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Not this time

Supervisor Tom Ammiano just announced his second bid for mayor. Remember the last time he did that, in 1999? Many of us rushed to the streets with leaflets and petitions on his behalf. We were energy itself.

Not this time. A lot of former supporters are shaking their heads now, saying, "No way, Tom."

The biggest problem is Ammiano's failed leadership on the homeless issue. Whenever Paul Boden, head of the Coalition on Homelessness, struts down to City Hall, Ammiano flops down on his back and throws his legs up in the air. Not a pretty sight.

Get up off your back, Tom, and take on the lobbyists from Homelessness Inc. Speak up for the well-being of the neighborhoods. Show some pride in being a San Franciscan.

Many of us would still love to rally around you, if only you would stand on your own feet again.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Homeless, homeless, homeless

Wayne Friday hit the nail right on the head last week when he wrote that anyone thinking about running for mayor in San Francisco must focus on three main issues - First, homeless. Second, homeless. And third, homeless ("Tom Ammiano enters SF race for mayor," *Our Man Friday*, May 16).

As of today, Tom Ammiano is the only candidate to enter the race. You can bet if Ammiano were to become the mayor of San Francisco, we the taxpayers, would be sure to get three things. First, more homeless drunks passed out on the sidewalk in front of the ever increasing vacant buildings. Second, more used needles and human feces scattered about the streets of our fair city. And third, more homeless. If Ammiano were elected, this city would be run under the direction of the Coalition on Homelessness and the *Bay Guardian*.

You are sure to see a new and improved Tom Ammiano between now and the mayoral election in '03. Voters, don't be fooled. He is trying to build all those bridges that he blew up over the last couple years by ignoring the middle class voters and dividing the LGBT community.

Please do not make the same mistake I did and vote for Ammiano just because he is gay and you think it would be cool for the gayest city in America to have a gay mayor. Please vote and please be a smart voter.

Last year we formed the group Gays-4-Gavin. We are ready to roll should Gavin Newsom decide to enter the race!

James "Jimmer" Cassiol
San Francisco

Not all Ammiano's fault

We read with interest Wayne Friday's column discussing Tom Ammiano's candidacy for mayor (May 16). Friday targets Tom Ammiano (whom he has never supported for mayor) as if he is single-handedly responsible for the lousy job the city has done on dealing with homelessness. Perhaps Friday should read the recent city controller's report on management of homelessness.

That report confirms what many of us have been saying for years: that the city has misspent money on homeless efforts that have not been properly coordinated and have not been effective. The buck doesn't stop with Ammiano for that. Where has the Mayor's Office on Homelessness been? What has Willie Brown done for eight years? Of course, Friday is Brown's close ally and appointee (to the Police Commission), we wouldn't expect him to criticize the mayor for failing to address the homeless issue.

Nonetheless, Friday should pay attention to roll call at the Board of Supervisors. Ammiano is sponsoring three pieces of legislation that will do more to address homelessness than anything we've seen in the last eight years from Mayor Brown. Working with state Senator John Burton, Ammiano is pushing for a state constitutional amendment that would require the state to provide treatment and housing for homeless people with mental health problems. Additionally, he has introduced legislation to provide 900 more units of housing for the homeless. He's also introduced an affordable housing bond that will appear on the November ballot.

Ammiano's proposals may not be sexy enough for Friday, but they are thoughtful, long term solutions, unlike those of Ammiano's fellow board members Tony Hall and Gavin Newsom. The reality is that homelessness is a complex problem. The homeless are not a monolithic group, but in fact many groups with different needs that are lumped together under one label. A quick reality check: there are between 7,305 and 14,000 homeless in San Francisco; 25 percent of homeless folks have jobs but don't make enough to afford housing in a city that still has high rents; 25-37 percent of all homeless people are families with children; 15-20 percent of all homeless are seniors; 130 families are currently on the waiting list for emergency shelter in SF; about 4,000 PWAs are on the waiting list for housing assistance (at last count nearly 20 percent of PWAs in SF are homeless).

And yes, there are mentally ill and drug-addicted folks on the street; there are people who panhandle. But they are not the bulk of the homeless. How do we address all of this diverse group's needs? Prosecuting and jailing people for not having a place to urinate or a bed to sleep in is not the solution. It will only fill the jails and courts. Jails are not homes. Filing folks who don't have money makes no sense either. Yet that's what Tony Hall and Gavin Newsom want to do. That's what they offer as their solutions.

There are currently two plans that make better sense - the Coalition on Homelessness' community plan and the Continuum of Care proposal. Both look at the range of the problems and address them with more drug and alcohol treatment programs and more truly affordable housing. Currently, most affordable housing goes to folks who make one-half of the Bay Area median average income (\$80,000). But the greatest need is for housing for folks on SSI and who make incomes under \$20,000. These are the folks who fall through the cracks and end up homeless. Many of these folks are workers living in their cars because they can't afford an apartment or even a room at an SRO. Many are victims of the dot-com boom and the escalation of rents and evictions in the last five years.

It's easy to look to quick-fix solutions such as jails and fines, but these punitive measures will solve nothing. Ammiano is a man looking for the long-range solutions, which don't make front-page headlines in the *Examiner* and don't get you on the Channel 2 morning program or in Wayne Friday's column.

Remember, until recently, Newsom said nothing about homelessness. Nothing. This is Newsom's second term on the board, did he suddenly wake up and notice that people are homeless? Or maybe it was his decision to possibly run for mayor next year that triggered his interest in the issue.

Join with us in calling for the implementation of plans that will make a difference, proposals like that of the Coalition on Homelessness or the Continuum of Care. With them we have a fighting chance of giving people homes and the care they need to turn their lives around.

Tommi Aviccoli Mecca
Robert Haaland
San Francisco

Two Pride parties?

Your May 3 article about Los Angeles-based Dan Pallotta and the complications of mixing charity events with profits reminds me I've heard we have an equally lethal problem erupting here in our town ("AIDS Vaccine Rides face lawsuit," May 3). People tell me a private for-profit party producer has decided to move in on the traditional Saturday night fundraising San Francisco gay Pride dance, ReUNION, with his own simultaneous event. How alarming because ReUNION, SF (formerly ReUNION @ City Hall) as I understand it is a volunteer effort to raise money for the gay community through a party for its own benefit. Over the past four years, this blast has raised more than \$70,000 (100 percent of the net proceeds) for local AIDS-based charities like Stop AIDS and Continuum. What can be raised this year in these already tough times is now threatened by a profit-hunter who, ironically, is part of the very community he is undermining. San Francisco, where's your pride in that?

Sandy Garson
San Francisco

Disagrees with Islam

I just read your recent editorial condemning the defacing of the Women's Building in San Francisco ("Hate rears its ugly head," April 4). I couldn't agree more. I lived in San Francisco all through the 1980s and am set to return later this year. I remember the Women's Building, a block from where I lived, as being a wonderful source of support for Bay Area lesbians. Anti-gay and anti-women graffiti is also ugly and undeserved.

But Arabs? On the night of September 11, Arabs around the world openly cheered on the street, including in Jersey City, New Jersey, less than two miles from ground zero. Since 9/11, thousands of Arab parents have offered to "donate" their children to the great cause of suicide bombing. Not even the Nazis, who I used to think were the sickest people who ever lived, sunk that low. That Arabs have been able to outdo the Nazis for violence and hate mongering is something that I didn't even think was possible.

While most religions are homophobic and sexist, it is Islam alone that targets and even celebrates gays for execution, and it is in Arab countries only that it remains a crime to teach women how to read, write, and drive a car. Recently in Saudi Arabia, three little girls, around 10 years old, were burned to death for not having their heads covered. (Lesbians who stand in support of the "rights" of Arab nations should take note of this.)

The notion that the struggle for queer, women's, and civil rights is somehow related to the determination of Arabs to kill everyone they disagree with is not only stupid, it's offensive.

David Alexander Nahmod
Hoboken, New Jersey

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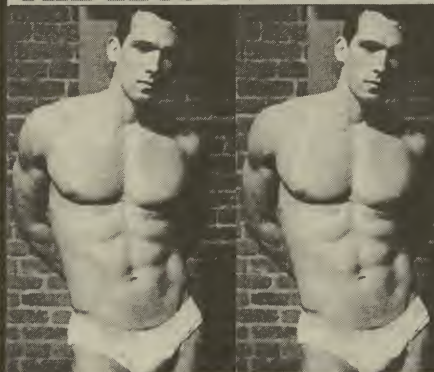
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Being gay still an 'issue'

by Paula Martinac

When Ellen DeGeneres told a reporter recently that she wanted people to appreciate her humor and "forget about the whole gay thing," she was voicing an opinion we seem to be hearing more and more these days: that being gay is, or should be, a "nonissue." In an ideal world — like Big Eden, the fictional town in the recent gay-themed movie of the same name — maybe being gay would hold no significance or stigma whatsoever. But in the real world, the one in which we actually live, being gay is still a huge issue. And at the slow pace social change is going, it will remain one indefinitely.

To me, it's telling that a lot of people who talk about gayness as a "nonissue" are incredibly privileged. You often see the words "nonissue" and "the gay thing" in features about famous gay people or in interviews with gay celebrities. For those with access to power and money, being gay is seemingly a minor, almost annoying detail not worth bothering people with.

After all, privileged gays don't really have to worry about some of the mundane stuff the rest of us do — like, say, acquiring healthcare benefits for our partners.

Gayness as a "nonissue" is also tossed around a lot by Republicans, straight and gay. In the 2000 campaign, Candidate Bush promised a select group of privileged gay Republicans that sexual orientation would be a "nonissue" when, as president, he made appointments to his administration. When the story broke that Mary Cheney, the vice president's daughter, was gay, Tracy Moran, the conservative opinion editor of USA Today.com, wrote a commentary titled "Mary Cheney's Gay — So What?", calling Cheney's sexual orientation her "sex life" and dismissing it as something that "shouldn't matter" and "need not be explained."

The Republican Unity Coalition, a gay-straight alliance of



Christine Smith

members of the GOP, has played up the idea of gayness being a "nonissue," too. In fact, the RUC states as its single mission "to make sexual orientation a 'non-issue' within the Republican Party" and to help Republicans "get over the issue of sexual orientation, like the GOP got over the issue of color in the past." (And we all know what a terrific job the Republicans did getting over "the color thing" — maybe that's why blacks today vote overwhelmingly Democratic.)

Of course, sexual orientation is only one part of life, whether you're gay or straight, Democrat or Republican, Ellen DeGeneres or Paula Martinac. Many days, I probably think more about taking care of my high-maintenance puppy than I do about being a lesbian. And I personally get pretty annoyed when straight people place my sexuality front and center and refuse to see me as simply another human being.

At the same time, however, gayness as a "nonissue" often amounts to a sneaky kind of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Consider, for example, that "forgedaboutit" Ellen, who admits that she lost her career after coming out, makes no references to her sexuality or her relationship in her new stand-up routine — just like the closeted Ellen of old. Bush's "sexuality is not an issue" course of action on gay appointments has given us only four

openly gay men in his administration — and many more we don't know about because they're still in the closet. And Mary Cheney, whose sexuality supposedly didn't "matter," in fact spent the 2000 campaign squirreled away, while her very straight, very married sister was in the forefront. In all these examples, the message comes through loud and clear — it may be fine to be gay, but it's even better if you don't talk about it.

And that message suggests how much of an issue our sexual orientation really is, even if many of us don't think about it on a daily basis. The fact is that the willful and insidious homophobia of straight people and the pervasiveness of heterosexism in our society continue to make it an issue. All you need to remind you of that is a quick glance at some of the stories in the news — the stigmatization of gay priests, for example, or the lack of financial relief for the partners of September 11's gay and lesbian victims.

Aiming to make gayness a "nonissue," then, isn't really progress at all; in fact, it feels like a big step backward to the idea that homosexuality should be kept under polite wraps. Our goal should be to help educate society to the idea that sexual orientation isn't a topic closed to discussion, but an issue worthy of attention and respect. Homophobia and heterosexism — like racism and sexism — won't disappear by ignoring them, but will only dissipate slowly when they're confronted over and over again, through activism and education. ▼

Amendment

◀ page 1

unless our laws send a positive message to children about marriage, family, and their future," Daniels said.



Matt Daniels

But even social conservatives were not exactly jumping on the amendment bandwagon. Representative Bob Barr (R-Georgia), who has seldom hesitated to take a swipe at gays, said the amendment went too far and violated the principle of states' rights. He opposed it. Marriage traditionally has been an area of state and not federal ju-

isdiction.

The conservative *Washington Times* editorialized against the amendment when it was proposed last year. And organizations such as the Family Research Council continue to ignore the amendment.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the administration sees no need for the amendment.

Gay organizations unanimously oppose the amendment, though they view it with varying levels of concern. The handful of co-sponsors "is hardly a massive outpouring of support," said longtime activist Frank Kameny. "It is something to keep an eye on but not to worry about — yet."

"Most of the anti-gay attacks in Congress are legal equivalents of sticks and stones," said Christopher Anders, legal counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. "This amendment is the legal equivalent of a nuclear bomb. It will wipe out every single line protecting gay and lesbian families and other unmarried couples."

He said it would "invalidate all state and local domestic partnership laws," even in those states that have passed a gay civil rights bill. It would prohibit state and local

governments from offering domestic partner benefits to employees, and "undermine" adoption and guardianship laws, including hospital visitation and decision-making.

National Stonewall Democrats "denounced the peddling of bigoted legislation by an anti-gay organization," but conveniently ignored the leading role played by a Democrat in introducing the amendment. Log Cabin Republicans highlighted that role and the bipartisan but limited support for the amendment. LCR called it "merely a fundraising ploy by people on the extreme end of the political spectrum."

"The U.S. Constitution is a revered document and should not be used for cynical election year posturing," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. She called it "a divisive anti-gay wedge issue."

"Fortunately, more and more Americans are recognizing that our government should be supporting all families, regardless of whether the parents are gay or not," said David Buckel, staff attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. ▼

POLITICS

Dick Cheney: 'Not a matter of if, but when.'

by Wayne Friday

If the subject were not so serious, it would have been laughable last Sunday watching top Bush White House officials practically run over one another, trying to cover all the network news shows in an attempt to do damage control over "what Bush White House officials knew and when they knew it" about the reports leaking out of D.C. that the administration had at the very least "serious and likely credible" briefings last August that there was a high possibility of an al Qaeda hijacking plot involving the use of commercial airplanes aimed at targeted buildings.

Exactly what then, did the president know? What did the FBI and the CIA know at least a month before the attacks on New York City and Washington, and what, if anything, did the government do about it? Aides said that President George W. Bush is "furious" about the growing criticism leveled at the White House about its handling of numerous intelligence warnings of terror attacks in the U.S. before September 11.

Indeed, what the Bush administration knew and did or did not tell the public prior to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have brought growing criticism from both Democratic congressional leaders and some in Bush's own Republican Party.

The White House was in full damage control mode Sunday, sending Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice running to one network after another. Rice was telling ABC television that a public commission — as suggested by Senators Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut) and John McCain (R-Arizona) — to investigate the intelligence failures prior to the September attacks, would not be helpful since the Senate and House Intelligence Committees were already about to investigate the mess.

Cheney was candidly predicting on NBC's *Meet the Press* that "we do not know if it's going to be tomorrow or next week or next year," but Cheney was saying that another attack on American soil was almost certain, adding "it's not a matter of if, but when."

Not even partisan Democrats in Washington were suggesting that Bush was responsible for holding back information or was derelict in his duty, but the White House, ever sensitive to any kind of "second guessing," was quick to suggest that to even ask questions — any questions whatsoever — whether they came from Democrats or Republicans, was somehow unpatriotic.

While Rice was making it clear that the administration wanted as few inquiries as possible (after all, questions ultimately bring answers, sometimes answers that are best not revealed), a number of congressional inquiries are certain to be held. What did the government know? What did it do about the information it received? It's all rather interesting, huh? At the very least, whether it makes the

White House happy or not, it is important that the American people at least get answers to these questions. Rather than ask the usual "What did Bush know and when did he know it?", I'd rephrase it this way: "What did George Bush know and when did Dick Cheney explain it to him?"



Kevin Ryan

Politics and people

President Bush finally made a very good appointment — that of Superior Court Judge **Kevin Ryan** as San Francisco's next U.S. attorney. Ryan, a 44-year-old Republican, is very popular and respected at the Hall of Justice and will surely win Senate confirmation. District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**: "I think he'll make a good U.S. attorney." Public Defender **Kimiko Burton**: "I think he'll do a good job; I find him, above all, to be a fair person."

U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), a moderate Democrat who often works with Republicans and generally shies away from political attacks, swung back last week when White House press secretary **Ari Fleischer** injected her into the growing political controversy surrounding the revelation that President Bush was briefed more than a month before the September 11 attacks that terrorists might try to hijack U.S. airliners and use them in attacks against the country. After Democratic leaders reacted angrily to the news that the administration had not informed them of the hijacking threat, Fleischer, in an attempt to cover his boss' political ass, said that, "Senator Feinstein, in July of 2001, on CNN said, and I quote, 'Intelligence staff have told me that there is a major probability of a terrorist incident [against the United States] in the next three months.'" Fleischer then said: "Clearly, if Senator Feinstein, a Democrat on the intelligence committee, was aware of this, the question then arises, what did the Democrats know and why weren't they talking to each other?"

That provoked an angry reaction from Feinstein, who said: "In the wake of the September 11 attacks, the issue is too important to our nation to engage in the kind of politics that Mr. Fleischer is practicing." Feinstein then said she repeatedly tried to warn the White House last summer about the serious problems identifying potential terrorism, but was finally told by a top official the day before the attacks that it would be six

months before he could review her remedies. "I told him I did not believe we had six months to wait," Feinstein said of her September 10 phone conversation with **Lewis Libby**, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff. While stressing again this week that she didn't think that Bush "had specific information" about what kind of attacks were coming, Feinstein repeated her frustrations in trying to alert the White House that the nation's intelligence agencies were "fragmented and uncoordinated."

Feinstein said this week that, "I believed last summer and continue to believe today that the [intelligence] system is seriously broken and needs to be fixed; it is my hope that the administration and Congress can work together to solve the critical security problems facing our nation, rather than playing the blame game."

I've known Feinstein for 30 years and have a personal friendship with her that I cherish. Should we take the word of Feinstein over that of a partisan White House flack? Any hour of any day. It's hardly a secret to my readers that I've admired the woman for a long time; they don't come any better than Dianne Feinstein.

Rumors abound that Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** will forego a re-election effort this November in District 2 and concentrate on next year's mayoral race instead. Does that mean that **Jim Lazarus**, who lost his race for city attorney last December in an upset to **Dennis Herrera**, will be running for supe in District 2?

Got to share this with you: From one of my favorite columnists, Texas' **Molly Ivins**, who was writing this week about the 18-hour coup that took place a few weeks ago in Venezuela where President **Hugo Chavez**, the duly elected president (no friend of the Bush administration, incidentally) was overthrown by a military coup, only to retake the government reins two days later. Ivins mentions that National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was offering post-coup advice to the restored Venezuelan president to "respect constitutional processes." That would, of course, be the same constitution that Chavez's opponents had tried to throw out, Ivins pointed out. She then mentioned a passage from the *New York Times*: "Asked whether the Bush administration now recognizes Chavez as Venezuela's legitimate president, a high-ranking Bush administration official replied, 'He was democratically elected; then added, 'Legitimacy is something that is conferred not just by a majority of the voters, however.'" To which, Ivins added: "How true. Sometimes a majority of the voters lose out to a five-to-four vote of the U.S. Supreme Court."

Celebs: Britain's distinguished actor, Sir **Ian McKellen**, and famed actress **Sharon Gless** are set to participate in next month's local gay Pride Parade. In other celeb news, former televangelist **Tammy Faye Bakker-Messner** helped kick off the 10th anniversary of Massachusetts' Gay-Straight Youth Pride celebration in Boston. The event is designed to show support for gay teens, who are twice as likely as hetero-

next page ►

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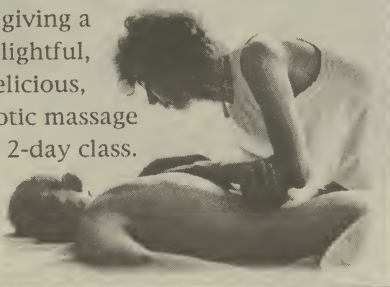
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How gay were medieval Christian clergy?

by Paula Martinac

The Catholic Church's concern about homosexuality among priests is not a new phenomenon. During the medieval period (roughly 350 to 1450) in Western Europe – also known as the Middle Ages – same-sex physical relations among Christian clergy members were common enough that homosexual acts were sometimes referred to as "the clerical vice," and the church regularly took measures to curtail them.

After the establishment of Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century, church fathers like Saints Augustine, Ambrose, and John Chrysostom began formulating the doctrine that sexual acts between two men were sins "against nature." Less frequently mentioned, but also ranked high on the church fathers' list of bad behavior, was "foul lust" between two women.

These theologians based their writings on select scriptural references, especially the epistles of St. Paul, which made the vague pronouncement that "God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature." At the same time, however, the early church fathers held that other kinds of sexuality were equally "unnatural," like adultery and nonprocreative intercourse.

Beginning in the early Middle Ages, church leaders sought to discourage (but not punish) same-sex intimacy in monasteries and convents – settings that were conducive to homosexual relations. In 423, St. Augustine counseled his sister, who had joined a religious order, that "the love which you [nuns] bear one another ought not to be carnal, but spiritual." The "handmaidens of Christ," he warned, should not be "immodest women, even with other females."

The early medieval *Regula magistri* (Rule of the Master), which prescribed the conduct of monks, required that they sleep in separate beds in the same room, with the abbot's bed at the center. But that alone may not have been enough to keep sexual intimacy between monks in check. In the fifth century, St. Benedict, founder of the esteemed Benedictine reli-

gious order, went a step further in his code for monastic life, stipulating that a light be kept burning in the monks' dormitories and that they sleep fully clothed.

The church hierarchy's fears about homosexuality seem to have been founded in fact. According to historian John Boswell, passionate, possibly sexual friendships among medieval clergymen were common, and not just within the rank and file. St. Anselm – onetime archbishop of Canterbury and a leading theologian of the late 11th century – developed deep emotional bonds with a number of fellow clerics in succession. Even several popes during the Middle Ages – like Leo III in the eighth century and Boniface VIII in the 12th – are said to have had passionate relationships with other men.

In addition, much clerical poetry and prose – which dominated the literature of a period in which most people were illiterate – was filled with homoerotic language. So were the clergy's private letters. "I think of your love and friendship with such sweet memories, reverend bishop," wrote the cleric Alcuin at the turn of the eighth century, "that I long for the lovely time when I may be able to clutch the neck of your sweetness with the fingers of my desires."

Nuns, too, developed intimate friendships, which their superiors tried to discourage. By order of a papal council in 1212, sisters were prohibited from sleeping two to a bed. But a manuscript from Bavaria at that time suggests that at least some religious women formed passionate, physical bonds anyway. One nun wrote in a poem after she was parted from her "singular rose": "When I recall the kisses you gave me, / And how with tender words you caressed my little breasts, / I want to die / Because I cannot see you." By the 13th century, stricter rules were instituted for nuns, forbidding them from entering each other's cells or locking their doors.

These precautionary measures against same-sex relations, however, are mild in comparison with the harsh stance the church began taking against homosexuality in religious orders in the later Middle Ages. In one extreme example, a powerful and wealthy 14th-century religious order, the Knights Templar – which fought to claim the Holy Land for Christendom

during the Crusades – was brought down by allegations of homosexuality, heresy, and devil worship.

In 1307, Philip IV of France, jealous of the Knights' rich treasury, had about 2,000 members of the order, including the leader, arrested. Among other things, the Knights were said to incorporate homosexual acts into their religious ceremonies and to use sodomy as an initiation rite. Under torture, many Knights confessed to the charges against them, and the order was dissolved by the pope.

The church's shift from disapproval to punishment of homosexuality seems to reflect a growing intolerance of difference in general in the late medieval period – intolerance not just of those engaging in homosexual acts, but also of those practicing Judaism and other non-Christian religions. The Inquisition – which rounded up, tried, and executed alleged heretics – was one infamous manifestation of this increasing bigotry. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at P0column@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Boswell, John. 1980. *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Brown, Judith C. 1989. "Lesbian Sexuality in Medieval and Early Modern Europe." In *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past*, ed. Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey Jr. New York: New American Library.

Bullough, Vern L., and James Brundage, eds. 1982. *Sexual Practices and the Medieval Church*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Prometheus Books.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

sexual teens to attempt suicide; other participants included U.S. Representative **Barney Frank** (D-Massachusetts) and gay former members of MTV's *The Real World*.

To the reader who wrote about **Jimmy Carter**'s recent trip to Cuba, I couldn't agree more. It's long past time we lifted the trade embargo. Hell, we trade with China and that country is every bit as bad as **Fidel Castro** on human rights. But then again, it's all about money, and China has a lot more of it than Cuba. And what a moment it was to savor when former President Carter

spoke on human rights – live and uncensored – on Cuban television with Castro sitting in the audience. This week, however, President Bush called for an even tighter ban on tourism to Cuba, and economic and travel restrictions are already far too harsh. Do you think Dubya could be playing up to those Cuban American voters in Florida where his brother, **Jeb**, is up for re-election this November? As the *San Jose Mercury News* put it last week: "Castro is 75. Even el Jefe can't hold on forever; by fostering trade and open relations now, America can sow seeds of democracy and hasten changes that will come after he is gone, if not before." Carter is right on Cuba; Bush is wrong.

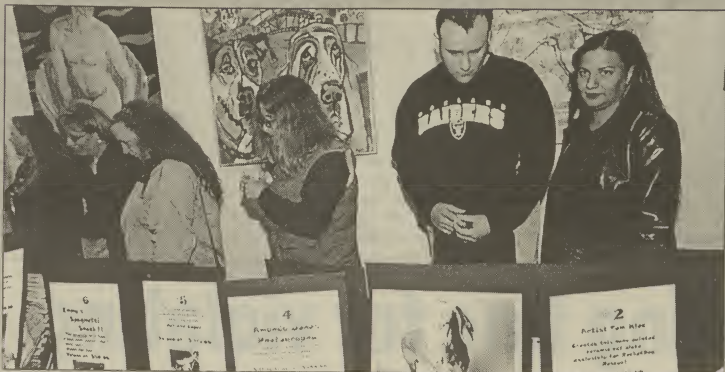
Supervisor **Mark Leno** is not

only campaigning long and hard to make sure he wins the 13th Assembly seat in November over that right-wing, anti-gay GOP nominee, he is also helping out other Democratic Assembly candidates. Leno goes to Palm Springs on June 16 to help raise funds for **Joey Acuna**, the Demo nominee in the 80th Assembly District.

Political junkies will remember **John Weaver**, the architect of Senator John McCain's strong insurgent bid for the GOP presidential nomination in 2000. Weaver has since soured on the Republicans, switched his registration to the Democratic Party, and has taken a job with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, working to elect a Democ-

page 23 ▶

Rocket to the rescue



RocketDog Rescue, a group to save abandoned and abused dogs that was started by HIV-positive San Francisco resident, animal activist, and artist Pali Boucher, held its kick-off reception Saturday, May 18. Above, an overflow crowd checked out the silent auction items, featuring art of — what else? — dogs. Boucher noted that the organization just received its nonprofit status and hopes to start gearing up for its rescue work. For more information, check out www.rocketdogrescue.com or call (415) 642-4786.

Mutt-napped

by Jane Warner

3 400 block of 17th Street, May 8, 5 p.m.: A man came home to find his front door wide open. Cautiously, he entered his apartment and searched the premises, finding no one inside and nothing missing except his dog. The man searched the neigh-



Missing pooch "Jealousy."

borhood for his canine pal named "Jealousy" but could not find her, and notified police. "Jealousy" is described as a 6-year-old spayed female St. Francis terrier/rottweiler mix with a tan mask and tan eyebrows. Anyone with any information regarding "Jealousy" is asked to call (415) 554-6364.

Party crash

The Cafe, 2367 Market, May 17, 11 p.m.: A man who was escorted out of The Cafe for harassing customers stood out front begging the doorman to get back in. When

his pleas went unheard the man sneaked around the back of the bar and climbed the rain gutter, attempting to gain access to the bar's balcony. His attempts failed, however, when the gutter broke and he came crashing down onto the hood of the bar manager's SUV in the parking lot. Angry, the drunk stomped on the hood of the car as well as other staff cars parked nearby. The suspect then walked back to the front door where he showed the doorman a cut on his hand and asked for a bandage. The doorman offered to call an ambulance, but the man declined and was last seen jay-walking across Market Street, headed toward the Detour. It wasn't until later that the staff discovered the damage to their vehicles. The suspect, described as a white male, 25 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 145 pounds, with an olive complexion, was wearing a dress shirt with a dragon printed on the back.

Nix fits

14th and Market, May 17, 4:30 p.m.: While standing on the corner of 14th and Market, a man took out a few pills from his seizure medication and placed the bottle next to him. As he turned to get a drink of water, a man quickly approached him, placed a knife at his neck, and threatened, "Give

me the bottle or I'll cut your throat." The victim handed over the bottle of pills and the suspect ran eastbound on Market. Police searched the area for the robber, described as a white male wearing a black jacket, black pants, and brown shoes, but could not find him.

Fun for the family

Dolores Park, May 12, 1:28 p.m.:

Two women sunbathing in the park noticed a man in the grass who looked up at them, unzipped his pants, and began to masturbate. The man then stood up and exposed his penis to the women while he continued to masturbate. The women called 911 on their cell phone. When officers arrived they found the man near the children's playground with his pants unzipped. The man had a heavy odor of alcohol on his breath and he was unsteady on his feet. The 36-year-old male was taken to Mission Station and booked for being drunk in public, having outstanding warrants, and indecent exposure. ▼



The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

Under One Roof sale to last through June

by Cynthia Laird

Under One Roof, the Castro shop benefiting the San Francisco AIDS community, announced plans to inaugurate "Shop for a Cure," an annual event that begins this weekend and continues through June, Pride month.

The shopping event will provide city residents and visitors an opportunity to support almost 50 local HIV and AIDS charities throughout the Bay Area. This year, Pottery Barn has generously agreed to help promote Shop for a Cure and Under One Roof is hoping to work with other merchants in the neighborhood over the next year to gain additional support in extending the concept

to the entire Castro neighborhood.

In anticipation of the Memorial Day weekend sale, more than 30 pallets of merchandise, donated by vendors participating in Moscone Center trade shows such as the Gourmet Products Show and the San Francisco International Gift Fair and Fancy Food Show, have arrived at the store. Most products offered are new items being shown for the first time, and many are available at a fraction of suggested retail.

Shop for a Cure also commemorates the three-year anniversary of Under One Roof in its Castro Street location. Paul Olsen, CEO, noted that since the store's move to 549 Castro, sales have almost doubled, and that

means more money is being distributed to the HIV/AIDS charities that partner with the nonprofit store. Agencies participate by investing in inventory, which the store then sells for them. Every month, each agency receives a check for the full retail amount for every item sold on their behalf. To date, Under One Roof has delivered \$8.2 million in retail sales benefiting the HIV/AIDS community. Agencies participating typically see a 150 percent return on investment, Olsen said. Most of the work in the store is done by volunteers.

Shop for a Cure begins Friday, May 24. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call (415) 503-2300. ▼

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Castro robbery suspect arrested

by Ed Walsh

Business owners in the Castro are breathing a collective sigh of relief after a man suspected of committing more than a dozen burglaries in the neighborhood was nabbed this week.

James Flannagan, 42, was arrested in the Mission about 5 p.m. on Monday, May 20. Police believe he began his one-man crime spree last month. The businesses he allegedly hit include the Sausage Factory, Café Du Nord, Klotz Watches, *Frontiers* newsmagazine, Enzi Beauty Salon, Faye's Video, Tin Pan Restaurant, Vibrant Health, Video Control, and Blue Restaurant. Investigators also believe Flannagan burglarized the Pilsner Inn twice earlier this month. Swipe ATMs were also another favorite target of Flannagan's, police said.

San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner first noticed a connection between the burglaries. She got officers from the Mission Station, including gay and lesbian liaisons Sergeant Chuck Limbert and Officer Theresa Ewins, involved in the case.

An undercover surveillance was set up using plainclothes officers. In one instance, the residents of a house in the Castro allowed officers into their home to watch an area where police thought the suspect may strike next. That effort turned out to be fruitless.

Through evidence and information from police informants, investigators were able to identify Flannagan, already on probation for burglary, as their prime suspect. Officers from Mission Station spotted him near 19th and Mission Streets when he was taken

into custody on Monday.

Limbert told the *Bay Area Reporter* that they have been able to positively tie Flannagan to at least one burglary through fingerprint evidence. Limbert suspects Flannagan committed 14 burglaries recently in the Castro.

Limbert said that Flannagan is known to police as a "crack head" who had been living on the streets in the area of Church and Market

until very recently. He apparently made enough money from his Castro burglaries to pay for a hotel room in the Mission where he had been living when he was arrested, Limbert said. Investigators believe Flannagan netted tens of thousands of dollars in cash and property during his alleged crime spree.

Limbert noted that the successful effort to catch Flannagan was the result of a coordinated ef-

fort between Warner, Ewins, and Officer Lisa Frazer, along with the assistance and support of the Mission District Captain Greg Corrales, and other officers from Mission Station who ultimately made the arrest this week. Warner said that she was assisted in her lobbying efforts to get more police attention to the problem through community activist and District 8 supervisor candidate Bevan Dufty.

Limbert noted that Flannagan has an extensive arrest record, including arrests for violent crimes, but most of the charges were dismissed by the San Francisco District Attorney's office or shuffled off to other jurisdictions with Flannagan being allowed to go free each time.

Police declined to release Flannagan's mug shot out of concern that it could jeopardize their case. ▼

D.A. fighting fine for violating gag order in dog mauling case

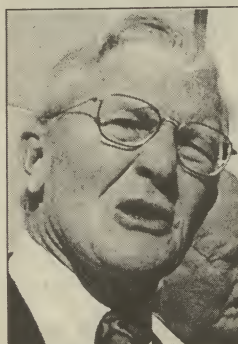
by Ed Walsh

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan plans to fight a fine levied on him by San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren for violating his gag order in the Diane Whipple dog-mauling case.

"We plan to file this week what we think will be the appropriate appellate remedy," Hallinan's spokesman, Reg Smith, told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, May 20.

On Friday, May 17, Warren fined Hallinan and defense attorney Nedra Ruiz \$750 each during a hearing to decide whether they should be found in contempt of court. Warren declined to find either in contempt but admonished them for violating the gag order.

Before the case went to trial, Hallinan told a reporter from the *San Francisco Recorder*, a legal newspaper, that defendant Mar-



Terence Hallinan

jorie Knoller lied to a grand jury. Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, were convicted in March of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a person. Knoller, who was with her two Presa Canario dogs

during the January 26, 2001 hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor, was also convicted of second-degree murder.

In a television interview broadcast while the trial in Los Angeles was taking place, Ruiz accused Sharon Smith, Whipple's partner, of lying about an injury suffered by Whipple during a previous run-in with the dogs. Outside court last Friday, Ruiz told reporters that she didn't mean to disrespect the court, but she felt obligated to get Knoller's side of the story out.

"I wanted to uphold my obligations to the court but it seemed to me at the time I had a higher obligation to Ms. Knoller," Ruiz said. "She was facing, still faces, a life sentence for what a crazy dog did."

Ruiz is no longer representing Knoller.

Hallinan hinted outside court that he would appeal.

"I'm relieved that [Judge Warren] found that I was not in con-

tempt and that the fine was not higher than it was," said the district attorney, "but I am disappointed that he just didn't accept my apology. And he seemed to indicate that he found me in contempt of an order that was issued two weeks after my statement, so we'll look at our alternatives and decide whether we want to challenge this ruling."

Hallinan told Warren that he made his statements to the press inadvertently and meant no disrespect to the court.

Knoller and Noel were not in court for the hearing. Their next court appearance is scheduled for June 7. At that hearing, Warren is expected to turn down the couple's request for a new trial and sentence the pair to state prison. With credit for time served, Noel could be free in less than a year. Knoller faces a sentence of 15-years-to-life. The couple is already preparing their case for the appeals court. ▼

Ohio high court overturns same-sex law

United Press International

The Ohio Supreme Court Wednesday, May 15 overturned a law barring same-sex solicitation, saying it violates the equal protection clauses of both the Ohio and U.S. constitutions.

The ruling stemmed from the arrest of Eric Thompson, who was convicted of importuning. He had solicited a male jogger to perform a sexual act. The court decision overturns Thompson's conviction.

The law specifies no "person shall solicit a person of the same sex to engage in sexual activity with the offender when the offender knows such solicitation is offensive to the other person or is

reckless in that regard."

The law also says "solicitation of homosexual or lesbian activity is also prohibited" but adds that "just asking" is not a criminal offense.

The court recognized the statute was aimed at preventing a violent response to words an indi-

vidual could find repugnant but found such words fall short of the "fighting words" that can be prohibited. Instead, the court said, the Legislature should have prohibited "all offensive solicitations of sexual activity."

"The mere assertion of a content-neutral purpose [for the law

is not] enough to save a law which, on its face, discriminates based on content," the court said.

In a concurring opinion, Judge Paul Pfeifer said his colleagues failed to address the central issue of the case: that the law actually is aimed at outlawing homosexual activity. ▼

NGLTF hosts California Power Summit

by Zak Szymanski

LGBT activists concerned about racial profiling and equitable distribution of resources to all communities are encouraged to attend a special lead-

ership training hosted in Los Angeles by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force over the weekend of May 31-June 2.

The California Power Summit is specifically designed to offer high-level training to community leaders who seek to put an end to racist ballot measures. Of utmost importance, presenters and attendees will tackle the newest attempt to remove racial information from California data systems. Ward Connerly, a University of California regent, founder of the American Civil Rights Institute, and past campaign chair for the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209, is working on getting signatures verified to place his "racial privacy initiative" on the ballot, though it is uncertain whether it will go before voters this November or sometime next year. Activists say the measure's attempt to prohibit the collection of racial data would effectively void hate crime and discrimination laws and limit the fair distribution of funding for re-

sources like healthcare.

"If Ward Connerly's classification initiative passes, it would prohibit the state government from collecting race and ethnicity data. This measure will make it almost impossible for the government to enforce civil rights laws, because it will not be allowed to collect evidence of discrimination," said a statement from NGLTF announcing the training.

NGLTF, long a pioneer in bringing racial and LGBT issues together, seeks people of color and their white allies to participate in the California Power Summit, which will provide training in community organizing, fundraising, legislative strategy, and other relevant topics. There is a \$50 general registration fee, and participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging. A small number of \$25 scholarships are available.

Participants must attend all three days of the training, and enrollment is limited. Call (323) 857-8742 or e-mail wcruz@ngltf.org for more information. ▼

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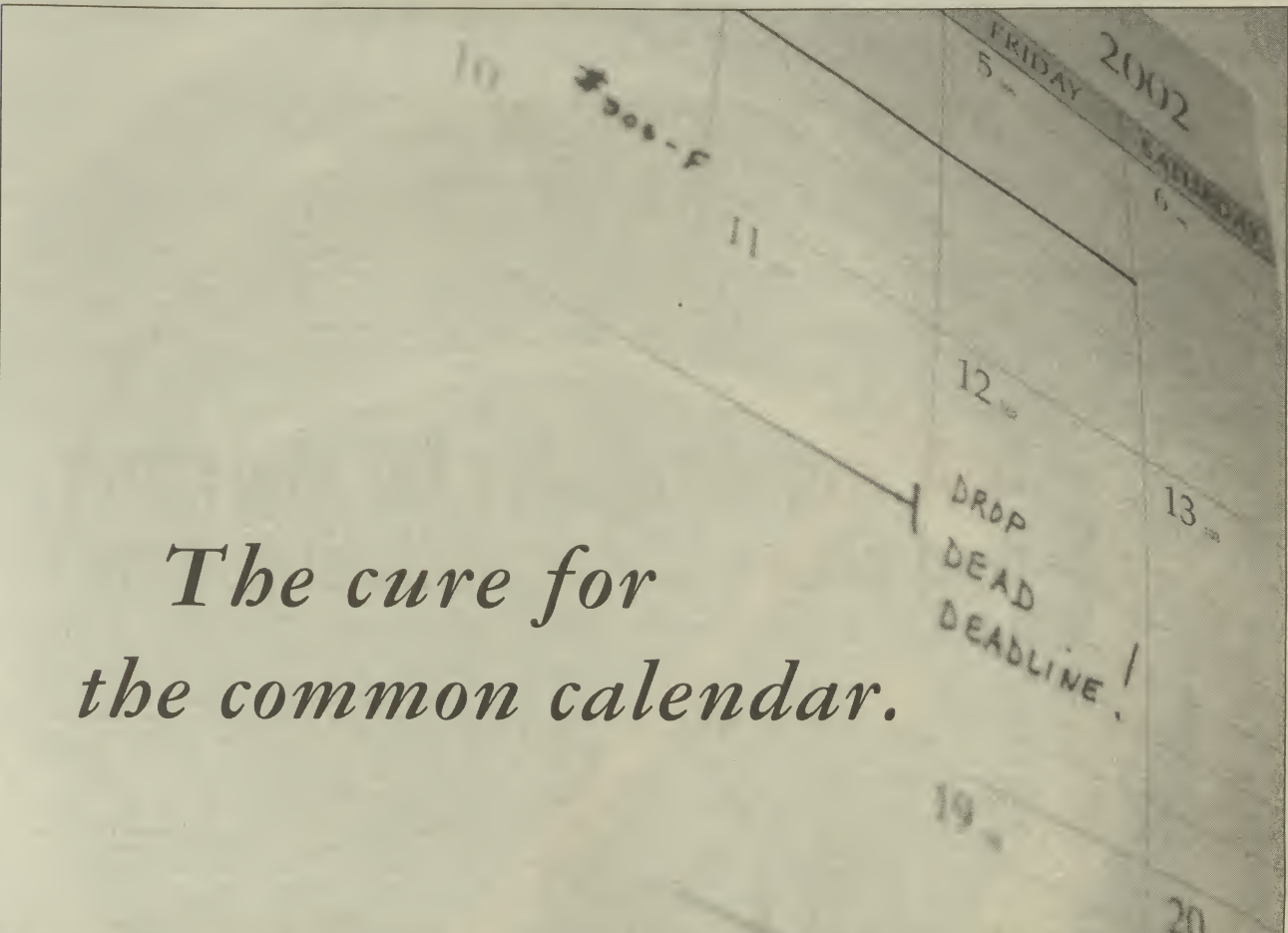
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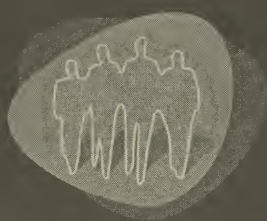


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2. Do you have a lack of energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Are your erections less strong?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Has your strength or endurance decreased?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Have you noticed a recent deterioration in your ability to play sports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Have you lost height?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Do you fall asleep after dinner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are you enjoying life less?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Has your work performance decreased lately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answer yes to question 1 or 7 or at least three of the other questions, you might have low testosterone levels. Fortunately, you can replace testosterone. Talk to your doctor about restoring your sex drive, energy and mood.

1. Dobs AS. Androgen therapy in AIDS wasting. *Bailliere's Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1998;12:379-390. 2. Grinspoon S, Corcoran C, Askari H, et al. Effects of androgen administration in men with the AIDS wasting syndrome; a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Ann Intern Med* 1998;129:18-26. 3. Morley JE et al. Saint Louis University Androgen Deficiency in Aging Men (ADAM) Questionnaire. *Metabolism* 2000;49:1239-42.



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Asians & HIV

◀ page 1

These challenges are only growing. APIs are the fastest growing population in the U.S. The Census Bureau estimates that APIs will increase to 4.4 percent of the U.S. total population, over 12 million people, by the year 2020.

While the number of reported AIDS cases among APIs remains small – about 1 percent of total cases reported in the United States – underreporting and a lack of detailed HIV surveillance about APIs masks the true nature of the epidemic among APIs.

Only the states of California, Hawaii, and New Mexico, local health departments in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, and New York City and the territory of Guam report AIDS cases among APIs by ethnicity/national origin. New York City and San Francisco

account for about 38 percent of total AIDS cases among APIs in the U.S.

Across the country, the majority of cases are among API immigrants and refugees. Some sero-prevalence studies of gay men in San Francisco and Los Angeles have found that APIs have higher rates of HIV infection than other groups.

According to the 2001 San Francisco HIV Prevention Plan, an estimated 448 APIs are living with HIV in the city, a prevalence rate of roughly 24 percent. APIs account for 3 percent of the 9,000 people living with AIDS in the city.

For example, according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health's March quarterly AIDS report, there are 299 documented male APIs living with AIDS in the city. Gay or bisexual APIs make up 72 percent of that total.

Since 1980, there have been 218 Filipino, 159 Chinese, 82

Japanese, and 52 Southeast Asian gay or bisexual men who contracted AIDS in San Francisco. The city also documented nine Korean, 42 Pacific Islander, and 62 other gay and bisexual API men living with AIDS.

One of the hardest hit groups is Filipinos, who make up 38 percent of the city's AIDS cases among APIs. When it was established in 1988, the Filipino Task Force on AIDS was one of the first groups to push for language-specific materials about HIV prevention and AIDS.

"Part of our role is to certainly push for and ensure that information and health services about HIV, AIDS and STDs are targeting communities like ours and are linguistically and culturally sensitive," said Victor Hall, the task force's executive director. "We were one of the early ones advocating for that."

One problem facing the community is that APIs are often stereotyped as the "model minority" in terms of health, education, and economics. Because of the rapidly increasing size of and the differences within API communities, there is still little data on health status and behavioral risks.

According to the API Wellness Center, many gay API men do not perceive themselves to be at risk for HIV. Studies of gay API men in San Francisco have found that most believed they were unlikely to contract HIV and believed they were unlikely to transmit HIV.

"For the longest time people thought AIDS didn't affect Asians, it is mostly a white man's disease. But the API Wellness Center is doing some great work and outreach to the Asian community, so I think there is more of an awareness now that it does affect our community," said Devesh Khata, a member of TriKone, a group for gay and lesbian South Asians, who recently joined the Wellness Center's board. "My personal goal is to have a South Asian prominently target this audience as a leader in the fight against HIV and AIDS."

According to the Wellness Center, it is important to implement interventions that incorporate the entire family and community

Search is on for new Miss Trans-Globe

by Matthew S. Bajko

She will be an ambassador of goodwill and healthy living in the transgender community.

She will be a face and a voice of transgenders in the Bay Area and the world.

She will be Miss Trans-Globe 2002 and crowned this weekend during the annual pageant sponsored by the Filipino Task Force on AIDS. The pageant is the task force's annual fundraiser.

"Miss Trans-Globe is not only beautiful, she is savvy, goal oriented, is aware of issues facing transgenders in matters relating to their health and well-being, and takes on the role of increasing the community's awareness on these issues," said Victor Hall, executive director of FTFA and organizer of the pageant. "Through this pageant, we are killing two birds with one stone – provide an avenue of positive visibility for transgenders and raise much needed funds for FTFA."

Like other beauty pageants, contestants must compete in preliminary interviews, national costume, and evening gown categories. The 10 ladies with the highest cumulative scores will then compete in swimsuit and interview.

Out of the top five delegates after that round, judges will then crown Miss Trans-Globe, First Princess and Second Princess. Miss Trans-Globe's duties will include answering press interviews, appearing and speaking at FTFA and community-related events, as well as serving as a model for FTFA's socio-marketing campaign for transgenders.

This year's pageant will be hosted by Tita Aida and Asia SF's Viktoria La Voovah, with entertainment provided by the GAPA Dance Company and "Ana," Miss Trans-Globe 2000.

The pageant takes place at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 25 at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased through City Box Office, (415) 392-4400 or through tickets.com. ▼

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 Contact Lori Cohen, RN, at 514-0550, ext 355
 Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF

Archbishop

◀ page 1

Anthony Bevilacqua, archbishop of Philadelphia, in April.

Healy's statement brings the San Francisco Archdiocese in line with most psychologists who say that the tendency to sexually abuse children and homosexuality are unrelated conditions.

In a homily just before Easter, the San Francisco archbishop made a distinction between homosexuality and the tendency toward child abuse. He said that seminaries should screen out potential priests who "show any indications of sexual immaturity" – one of the root problems, psychologists say, which can lead to sexually abusive behavior toward minors.

But Healy said that homosexuality is just one of the issues that need to be examined as the church struggles to find long-term solutions to the organizational problems that permitted the abuses and their subsequent cover-up by bishops.

"As a church we will need to commit ourselves to the best possible review of the causes, with the assistance of the best expertise we can find to assist us," Levada said in his pre-Easter homily.

"Everything's on the table," Healy said this week.

But as the debate within the church begins to take shape, there

is wide disagreement as to what those reforms should be. Most American church leaders have insisted, at a minimum, that suspected perpetrators of child abuse must be reported to civil authorities, as the law in California and many other states requires.

But as recently as last Saturday, according to a *New York Times* report, a canon lawyer at the Vatican wrote in the magazine *Civiltà Cattolica*, a Vatican-approved Jesuit journal, that bishops should not be required to turn over records of sexual abuse by priests to prosecutors. The author, the Reverend Gianfranco Ghirlanda, dean of the Canon law faculty at Gregorian University in Rome, also wrote that a priest with a record of sexual abuse who is reassigned should not, according to the *Times* account, have his "good reputation" ruined by having his background revealed to the new parish.

Locally, Healy called the question of handing over records "an academic discussion."

"In the real life of California," he said, "it's contrary to state law."

The controversy highlights the broad range of opinion within the church. And because the Vatican must approve whatever policies the American bishops make when they meet in Dallas in June, critics have said that the bishops will be forced to be conservative in their recommendations.

But it also points, reform-ori-

The various organizations focused on the API community all say more resources are needed to develop, evaluate, and replicate linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate HIV prevention and care interventions. And the organizations are also focusing increased attention on other APIs at risk, including API youth, transgenders, and women of all sexual orientations.

Transgender "is a part of the community oftentimes overlooked and oftentimes being taken for granted. In the Filipino community, we are just beginning to learn more about what being transgender is all about," said Hall. ▼

ented Catholics say, to the church's management structure as a cause of the problems and as an impediment to significant reforms within the church.

The San Francisco Archdiocese does not see the need for a re-vamping of the Church's top-down management structure in the wake of the scandals which have, so far, cost the archdiocese \$5.2 million in legal fees, settlements, and counseling, according to Healy.

"This is not a congregational model. We have an apostolic model in which we believe that the church has been handed down to the bishops. That has held the church together for 2,000 years," Healy said.

In the same pre-Easter homily, Levada said that it should fall to the bishops "to address how to deal with the misconduct of bishops," a self-policing structure which critics and some Catholics have said made the cover-ups possible.

Dignity/SF's vigil is scheduled for Saturday, May 25 in front of St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street, at 7:30 p.m. A statement from the organization noted that the vigil will protest, among other issues surrounding the scandals, what it calls the "the need for structural reform within the hierarchy."

The vigil will also, according to organizers, highlight "the shifting of blame being directed toward gay priests" and will demand a full voice for the laity in discussions about the scandals. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gender conference tackles deeper issues

by Zak Szymanski

It's not often that the queer and heterosexual communities come together for a common vision of self expression, and it's rarer still that people find themselves discussing their personal lives with John Cameron Mitchell, creator and star of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, or smoking a cigar with Alicia Goranson of *Roseanne* and *Boys Don't Cry* fame.

But all the exceptions were the rule at the second National Conference on Gender in Washington, D.C. May 18-20. Hosted by GenderPAC, the national organization working to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes, the conference drew more than 1,000 people from over

30 states and three different countries who came to verbalize and strategize their goals for social and public policy.

"We're excited that we nearly doubled our attendance this year," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC. "We connected with our supporters, members, and activists in the field, and we got a lot of positive energy to move forward, grow, and bring new people into the fight."

Wilchins spoke at the conference opening, noting that of all the conferences in the Washington Hilton and Towers hotel that weekend, only one had the ability to invoke "the whiplash effect," where bystanders turned their heads and wondered, "What was that?" upon seeing gender-variant individuals.

"It's fun to get people to ad-



GenderPAC's Riki Wilchins

dress you as sir, and then ma'am," she said. "The trick is to try to get them to go back to the first pronoun after they've already corrected themselves."

The conference featured speakers like John Cameron Mitchell, who encouraged attendees to pursue their passions; Pauline Mitchell, who gave a moving speech in honor of her murdered son, Freddie Martinez Jr., and Carmen Vasquez, the public policy director for New York City's LGBT Center, who encouraged the crowd to embrace a progressive vision and not settle for anything less than inclusion for everyone.

Workshops addressed a broad range of issues, from "sissyphobia" in gay male circles; to the intersections of race, class, and gender perceptions; to women's- and men's-only spaces in an age of

gender fluidity.

Like any conference, there were clashes and debates, and most focused on trying to define what people considered givens in a movement so broad that it attempts to represent butch lesbians, heterosexual men, intersexed people, and cross dressers alike.

"How are you defining 'feminine'?" Goranson, a strong woman with a Hollywood reputation for having "attitude," boldly challenged the "sissyphobia" panelists who were discussing the gay male tendency to gravitate toward "masculine" partners.

"And how are you defining 'butch'?" wondered an attendee at a gender profiling panel, who pointed out the cultural differences in such terminology and American perceptions that tend to feminize Asians and masculinize African American women.

But everyone was there for a common purpose: to eliminate obstacles based on gender expression that occur within queer and mainstream circles. This purpose was evident at a well-attended "Reforming GID" workshop, hosted by Daphne Scholinski, a former San Francisco resident and author of *The Last Time I Wore a Dress*.

Scholinski, who spent much of his/her adolescence in mental homes for "gender identity disorder" discussed the history of the relatively new "mental illness" and the efforts to remove the term as a psychiatric diagnosis. Although Scholinski's preference is to remove gender variance as a diagnosis at all, she noted that many

transgenders must have something on the books in order for them to access healthcare. A medical term, therefore, is the immediate goal of the new nonprofit she is in the process of creating. But that term still allows doctors and others to dictate one's gender path, and it often leads to pressure to complete a transition even if someone changes his/her mind or identifies somewhere along a spectrum. More information is available at www.gidreform.org.

The National Conference on Gender also promoted a sold-out international drag king show near Dupont Circle on Saturday, May 18 and wrapped up on Monday, May 20, with a lobby day attended by more than 75 people. Lobby day participants visited the offices of congressional leaders and were able to secure several signatures onto an equality statement pledging support for gender expression and identity in all civil rights legislation.

Next year's conference is expected to be even larger, said Wilchins, who noted that Judith Butler, author of the post-modern staple, *Gender Trouble*, will be a featured speaker. The conference typically accommodates people from various income levels and provides scholarships and room shares to make the event more affordable to travelers. For more information on GenderPAC, visit www.gpac.org. ▼

Full disclosure: Zak Szymanski was on a panel at the conference.

MA same-sex marriage denied; SF workshop Wed.

by Joe Dignan

A Massachusetts trial court judge has found against seven same-sex couples who sued when they were denied marriage licenses. Gay marriage advocates said the ruling, which was handed down on May 8, is the first skirmish of an ongoing legal battle over same-sex marriages, which is all but certain to find its way to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

"The ruling was anticipated," said Mike Marshall, executive director of the San Francisco-based Californians for Civil Marriage. "This lower court is not about to change the marriage law in Massachusetts."

CCM will host a community forum in San Francisco later this month.

In his 26-page ruling, the judge, Thomas E. Connolly, said that the matter should be decided by the Massachusetts Legislature. But because the case is likely headed for the state's high court, the courts will likely be required to decide if same-sex marriage will be permitted in that state.

If that high court rules for the plaintiffs, Massachusetts will be the first state in the union to allow gay marriage.

"It's a huge deal. It sends tingles up my spine," said attorney Jennifer Levi of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, an advocacy group which aided the plaintiffs in the case. "And it could happen. There are incredibly strong legal reasons. We have very broad non-discrimination protections in our state Constitution, and there is no explicit prohibition on same-sex marriage."

Those protections make Massachusetts an ideal testing ground for gay marriage, advocates said, because the high court will be required to decide the case on constitutional grounds.

The progress of the case is similar to the situation in Vermont. There, the Vermont high court ordered the Legislature, also in a suit over marriage licenses, to create a mechanism to acknowledge gay unions — which ultimately resulted in Vermont's first-in-the-na-

tional civil union legislation.

The Massachusetts ruling is the starting point in a race between this litigation and an initiative likely to go before the Massachusetts voters in the November 2004 election. The initiative is similar to California's Knight initiative and would amend the Massachusetts Constitution to define marriage as being only between a man and a woman.

If the initiative reaches the voters before this case is decided, it would preempt the power of the courts to decide if same-sex couples can marry.

Although GLAD attorney Levi expects a verdict on the case from the Massachusetts Supreme Court before the voters act on the initiative, similar initiatives foiled attempts to legalize gay marriage in Alaska and Hawaii.

GLAD and other gay rights groups are challenging the initiative in the Massachusetts Supreme Court and in the Massachusetts Legislature where it must receive at least 25 percent support in two successive legislative sessions.

One of the central arguments made by the Massachusetts attorney general's office on behalf of its client, the Department of Public Health, was that one of the central purposes of marriage is procreation and that gay and lesbian couples do not have children.

GLAD attorney Levi said that because both Massachusetts and California now allow second-parent adoption, "There's a contradiction in laws which allow couples to have a relationship with their children and not with each other." Four of the plaintiff couples have children.

Levi also said that the case represents an evolution of marriage. "A woman used to be considered property," Levi said. "Interracial marriage was prohibited. That was struck down. Marriage has evolved appropriately and will continue to evolve."

Gay marriage advocates are not satisfied with civil unions. Marshall, of CCM, called civil unions "separate but unequal." Married couples are granted more than 1,000 specific rights and responsibilities under federal law alone

page 21 ►

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Medicinal marijuana for people with AIDS

by Ramon M. Gonzalez,
ALRP Client Advocate

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel:

I am living with HIV/AIDS and suffer from a number of side effects of my HIV medications. Several of my similarly situated friends have benefited tremendously from using medical marijuana. I'm eager to regain my strength and would like to know more about the stuff. Is it still

legal in the city? How do I go about getting a prescription? Where do I buy it? I'm concerned about everything I've read in the papers this year about cops raiding the pot clubs. The last thing I need is a stint in the pokey - I look terrible in orange!

On the Come-Back Trail in San Francisco

Dear On the Come-Back Trail:

Despite some of the problems with federal law enforcement, San Francisco is still the only city in the United States that has become a medical marijuana sanctuary. After California voters approved Proposition 215 in 1996, which legalized medicinal marijuana use by people with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses, the city's politicians, law enforcement personnel, and community activists have worked diligently together to support the law. There are several medicinal cannabis clubs, as well as a host of other such organizations, currently operating in town. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) lists the addresses and phone numbers for these entities on its Web site, www.canorml.org.

Here's how it works: you simply ask your treating physician to write a referral or recommendation for the use of medical marijuana. It is currently illegal for a doctor to write an actual prescrip-

tion for medical marijuana. As a result, pharmacies cannot fill such prescriptions. However, on April 3, 2002, U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), introduced a bill to the House of Representatives that, if ratified, would allow physicians to prescribe marijuana in states that have legalized it as medicine.

If your doctor recommends that you use medicinal marijuana, just take your written referral to one of the clubs, which will then screen you accordingly. Your doctor can also give an oral referral, in which case someone from the club will call him or her to verify the information. If your doctor is afraid to give you such a referral due to concerns about federal law, you should call the San Francisco Department of Public Health at (415) 538-2800 for suggestions on how to find another doctor who may be able to help you. Fortunately, there are many doctors in San Francisco who understand the need for this kind of medical marijuana, which is reported to stimulate appetite, reduce pain and nausea, and provide numerous other health benefits.

After the intake process, the clubs will issue you an identity

card, which can help protect you against prosecution by local authorities, and should protect you from other California law enforcement agencies. The Department of Public Health also issues special ID cards for medical marijuana users that you can show to the San Francisco Police Department. Police Chief Fred Lau has publicly stated that they will look

the other way in cases in which a person can substantiate that their possession of marijuana is for legitimate medical use.

Unfortunately, not all the news is good. On May 14, 2001, the United States Supreme Court unanimously ruled that federal anti-drug laws take precedence over Proposition 215. The federal laws make no exception for seriously ill patients using medicinal marijuana. (Until Congress enacts a law stating otherwise, medicinal marijuana will continue to be illegal at the federal level.)

This gave a green light to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and the rest of the Bush administration to crack down on the cannabis clubs. On February 12, the DEA raided the Harm Reduction Center on Sixth Street, the third such raid since the Supreme

Court's ruling. (San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan, as well as other local politicians denounced the raid.)

Since then, a federal judge has refused to lift an injunction against the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative and one San Francisco medical marijuana club voluntarily closed earlier this month.

There have been no more federal raids since mid-February, but the status of clubs is uncertain. If for some reason you are arrested, check out NORML's Web site for a list of local criminal defense attorneys who can help.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys can assist you in a variety of matters. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at www.alrp.org.

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Ammiano and Herrera take on HIV drug ads

by Zak Szymanski

Many activists considered it to be a victory last year when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors took up the cause to reform HIV drug advertisements, and the Food and Drug Administration agreed that pharmaceutical companies had an obligation to portray realistic images of people with AIDS. The HIV drug ads in question featured hardy men often engaged in strenuous activities like mountain climbing, and the drugs' side effects were not prominently listed, portrayals that many feared were linked to the rising HIV infection rate due to the perception that the disease was manageable with medication.

In a spring 2001 letter to pharmaceutical companies, the FDA stated that changes needed to be made to such advertisements.

"Some direct-to-consumer materials and activities for HIV drugs utilize images that are not representative of patients with HIV infection. Examples of such images range from robust individuals engaged in strenuous physical activity to healthy-looking individuals giving testimonials of a specific drug's benefit. However, not all individuals have a response to antiretroviral therapy," the FDA letter stated. "Furthermore, some images minimize the significant side effects profile associated with HIV drugs, including metabolic changes such as fat redistribution or facial wasting. Therefore, images that are not generally representative of patients with HIV infection are misleading because they imply greater efficacy than

demonstrated by substantial evidence or minimize the risks associated with HIV drugs."

Some companies complied with the FDA directive. Others, according to Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano and City Attorney Dennis Herrera, have fallen disappointingly short.

Last week, Ammiano and Herrera wrote their own letter to pharmaceutical companies protesting the use of misleading images in advertisements for HIV and AIDS drugs and warning that the city is considering taking legal action against the companies.

The May 14 letter charges that Glaxo Smith Kline, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, and Agouron Pharmaceuticals Inc. have continued unethical and illegal advertising practices over the objections of the FDA.

"You present images of healthy and active people. In some instances, these images are accompanied by words that play to the readers' emotions: words like 'hope,' 'strength,' 'promise,' 'power,' 'choice,' 'future options,' 'Plan Your Future,' 'easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects,' and 'it's easy to live with,'" the Ammiano-Herrera letter stated. "These images and phrases suggest that, with your drugs, HIV and AIDS can be easily managed and that using these drugs will enable a person to live a long, strong, and healthy life."

The ads also "fail to convey the limitations and problems associated with HIV/AIDS drugs like those marketed in your ads. They do not adequately warn people that for a substantial percentage of the people who try them, the drugs do not work. Nor do they adequately discuss the substantial

percentages of individuals using your drugs who experience side effects that range from debilitating to fatal, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, headaches, anemia, dizziness, tingling of extremities, and muscle and joint pain," said the letter. "The ads also do not discuss the fact that some of these drugs are or must be used in combination with others, and that the combinations are less easy to manage and increase the risks of side effects. Finally, your ads do not discuss at all or in a meaningful way the issue of drug resistance and the limited time period during which each medication can, as a result, be used."

Herrera and Ammiano requested a meeting with company lawyers and representatives, but at press time, the companies had not yet responded to the letter or its request.

Ammiano said that he and Herrera sent the letter because recent studies have found that the upward trend in transmission of HIV is the result of misconceptions among at-risk populations about the efficacy of HIV and AIDS drugs.

"The cooperation of our city attorney is a very positive step toward finding a remedy for this problem," Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Herrera said continued use of the ads violates California consumer protection statutes. "Putting out misinformation that leads to rising rates of infection is unconscionable and illegal," Herrera said. "While ads like these may enhance profitability for companies who market AIDS and HIV medications, they are putting lives at risk." ▼

Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

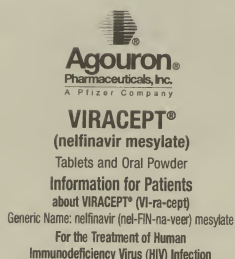
VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglu[®], Cardioquin[®], Quinidex[®], and others
Ergot derivatives (Cafegot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion[®] (triazolam)
Versed[®] (midazolam)
Mevacor[®] (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor[®] (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin[®] (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra[®] (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor[®] (lovastatin) or Zocor[®] (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor[®] (atorvastatin) and Baycol[®] (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
Efavir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
Videx[®] (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune[®] (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva[™] (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan[®] (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir[™] (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Inivase[®] (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®] A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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OBITUARIES

Celebration to honor LifeCycle rider Tom Gilder

by Ed Walsh

A celebration will be held this weekend to honor the life of Tom Gilder, a longtime Project Open Hand volunteer who collapsed and died last week on the inaugural AIDS/LifeCycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

The San Mateo County Coroner's office told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that Gilder, 57, died of a heart attack. Although he was in good physical shape, Gilder suffered from high blood pressure and took medication to help keep his hypertension under control.

The gathering in Gilder's memory will be held on 147 Coleridge Street in San Francisco at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 25. (For

more information, see the obituary above.) In lieu of flowers, donations to Project Open Hand, in Gilder's memory, are requested.

Gilder worked as a bartender at the Hole in the Wall Saloon for the past three or four years until he quit about a month ago, according to Gilder's close friend Dan Hodge. He was on the verge of a new career to fulfill a dream of becoming a railroad conductor and had recently completed the required class work, Hodge said.

Gilder died on the first day of the AIDS/LifeCycle ride, last Monday, May 13. He collapsed while on his bike on Highway 1, near San Gregorio State Beach, south of Half Moon Bay. A planned performance by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus at the group's overnight stop in Watsonville that

night evolved into an informal memorial service for Gilder, according to San Francisco AIDS Foundation spokesman Gustavo Suárez.

Gilder volunteered with Project Open Hand for more than seven years and put in about 2,300 hours with the organization that delivers meals and provides groceries to people with AIDS and seniors. Friends said that they are touched that he died, as he lived much of his life, helping others.

The LifeCycle ride concluded on Sunday, May 19, in West Hollywood. Organizers said the 600-mile trip with 672 bikers generated more than \$4.4 million in donations. The money goes to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. ▼

Tom Gilder
1945 — May 13, 2002



Tom died while bicycling in the AIDS LifeCycle, a week-long ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles raising money for AIDS charities. Tom trained for the event for months beforehand and was very excited to be making the journey. He collapsed during the first day of the ride, suffering a heart attack. While he and his friends were shocked and saddened to realize that Tom is gone, it is heartening to know that his death happened at the same time he was doing his best to help others.

Tom's efforts on behalf of others were prominent in his life. For over seven years, he was a faithful volunteer at Project Open Hand, where he performed an estimated 2,300 hours of service. He is fondly remembered by fellow volunteers and staff at Open Hand for his quiet ability to organize and support the kitchen volunteer crew. His commitment to Open Hand's mission of "Meals with Love" was inspirational. Tuesday mornings at Project Open Hand will not be the same without his friendship and leadership.

Tom was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and lived there and in New Orleans until the mid-70's when he moved to San Francisco. He worked as an electrical contractor for many years here before becoming a bartender at some of San Francisco's favorite bars, including the Watering Hole. For the last several years, he worked at the Hole In The Wall Saloon, where he is remembered by a large number of friends and patrons.

Tom came close to living a long-held dream when he recently completed courses to become a railroad conductor. Though he was never able to fulfill this

wish, his joy in reaching for it was heart-warming.

Tom used to head out on his bicycle almost every morning, usually around 4 a.m. while the City was still asleep. He loved "having the city to himself" and breathing in the morning air. His goal was to realize his life here to the fullest, to know he was in one of the most beautiful places on earth and to relish it. He is an inspiration to us in this and in many other ways. We miss him. We love him.

In addition to his many friends here, Tom is survived by four brothers, Eugene, Hal, Galen and Robley, all of Louisiana.

Donations to Project Open Hand in Tom's memory will be appreciated. A celebration of Tom's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 25th at 147 Coleridge Street, San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 821-4807 or e-mail dan@ogc.org.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Bingham's life celebrated on eve of birthday

by Ed Walsh

The life of Flight 93 hero Mark Bingham was celebrated last week in a burial service and a scholarship benefit in his memory. Bingham would have turned 32 on Wednesday, May 22.

On Friday, May 17, at a private burial service in the South Bay, relatives spoke about Bingham's kind and feisty spirit. Authorities believe Bingham was one of the passengers who helped fight off terrorists, forcing them to miss their intended Washington, D.C. target on September 11. Flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

Bingham's mother, Alice Hoglan, read a passage from *Charlotte's Web*, one of Bingham's favorite childhood books. The book tells the story of a character who sacrifices her life for another.

"This, I think, was Mark's first serious acquaintance with death," explained Hoglan. "He was a tenderhearted little boy and he grew up to be a tenderhearted, strong fine young man."

Bingham's aunt, Candyce Hoglan, quoted the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort but rather where he stands in moments of challenge."

The aunt added that she felt very lucky to know Bingham all of his life "from a sweet little baby boy" to "an American hero."

Bingham's uncle, Vaughn Hoglan, drew laughs when he recalled that as a child, Bingham liked to engage in pillow fights in the dark.

"You could hear the impact and hear him grunt," said the uncle, "and as soon as he caught

his breath he would say 'you missed me.' Of course we couldn't tell, the lights were off. But that's the way he shook off anything that hit him hard."

The service was attended by about 30 relatives and close friends, including Bingham's former partner, Paul Holm. It was held at the Madrona Cemetery in Saratoga.

Last Saturday, May 18, a celebration of Bingham's birthday was held at Club NV on Howard Street in San Francisco. The event was part of a fundraiser for the Mark Bingham Leadership Fund, which will award scholarships to deserving University of California, Berkeley students. Organizers are already beginning to plan another fundraiser for the fall.

More information on the fund can be found at www.MarkBingham.org. ▼

MA marriage

◀ page 17

and another 800 under California law. These include rights of inheritance, immigration, Social Security, pensions, community property, tax status, and even the ability to buy joint insurance policies.

By contrast, Vermont's civil unions legislation does not provide any federal rights. California's new domestic partner legislation provides only 15 specific rights to same-sex couples.

Levi said that one of the main differences between civil unions and marriage is portability. "A marriage made in Rhode Island is just as valid in Oklahoma. That's not true for a Vermont civil union."

But, Levi added, "Marriage isn't just this bundle of rights and protections. It's a status that's universally recognized. People don't sing songs about civil unions. Marriage is a common language."

CCM and Marriage Equality California will host a community marriage meeting on Wednesday,

May 29 from 7-9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street (at Octavia). Marshall said that one of the main jobs of his organization is education. At the meeting, leaders in the California freedom to marry movement will explain the strategies they are using to work toward civil marriage here and show local activists how to get involved. ▼

For more information on the San Francisco forum, call CCM at (415) 362-1011.

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I'm too sexy for my coach!



Sportswear galore was modeled by Gay Games-bound athletes and auctioned at the Team San Francisco Gay Games VI kick-off party May 16 at the LGBT Community Center. Auction items included a luxury trip to Sydney, fabulous sportswear, dates with Gay Games athletes, and a lunch and City Hall tour with Supervisor Mark Leno. Funds raised benefit Team SF's Athlete's Assistance Fund.

Racquets and rasslin'

by Jim Provenzano

Memorial Day in the Bay Area often means snarled traffic lines of attempted three-day weekend escapes, or smoky barbecues in back yards. For those disinclined toward grills and gridlock, consider two sporty alternatives.

Eureka Valley Recreation Center will echo with the tweets of ref whistles and the thud of pins at the annual Golden Gate Wrestling Club Memorial Day Tournament.

The pop of tennis balls lobbing about courts also will echo around town at the annual United States Gay Open Tournament to be hosted this weekend (May 23-27) in San Francisco.

The majority of tennis matches—as well as finals on Monday—will take place at the Golden Gate Park tennis courts. All wrestling practices and the tournament will be at Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood, behind Cala Foods off 18th Street in the Castro.

Over the weekend tennis courts at San Francisco State Uni-

versity and outdoor courts at Brannan and 5th will also see gay tennis players lobbing and backhanding.

Some of the local tennis competitors will also be Sydney-bound come this November. Gay Games' B category in tennis is full, and level C is almost full.

Close partners

Paul Brockmann will be competing in C singles and doubles with his longtime tennis partner Stephen Esmond.

A consultant and certified message therapist, Brockmann started learning tennis when he moved from New York to Los Angeles five years ago "at the ripe old age of 34."

He ran with Frontrunners in New York City in the 1980s, and ran track in Gay Games in 1994.

Sydney will be his second Games. Playing doubles with the same partner for more than three years since their Los Angeles days has led the two to become strong players.

"We've played in almost a dozen tournaments together," Brockmann said. "We've become best friends."

And although he and his partner are competitive, "It's also all about fun." Their travel plans include diving in the Barrier Reef, and swimming off the coast of Tasmania.

Happy return

A player with a somewhat more intense background in tennis, Adam Berman played off and on over 25-year period since he was 12.

"My parents encouraged it, since they were avid tennis players," said Berman.

In Los Angeles, through the 1970s when Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe were tearing up courts, Berman also suffered a lot of pressure in the competitive sport.

"There was a period where I was competing a lot and it was a lot of pressure. I didn't enjoy it," he said. "It was very frustrating time. I stopped playing for 15 years, and started up recently. But now it's great."

What brought him back?

"A year and a half ago, I thought it would be fun. I ended up joining the San Francisco Tennis Club, and the GLTF. The relaxed out atmosphere of a gay club adds to the level of fun," he said. "I'm so glad I know how to play."

Berman is also going to Sydney for the first time to compete in tennis. Despite his lifelong experience, he remains modest about his potential competition.

"There are a lot of phenomenal gay players over the country," he said. "I just give it my best shot and have fun."

"Winning is more fun now," he said. "It's not as intense as it was growing up. I have a way of forgetting about the last point, so it doesn't weigh on my performance."

Being out and among fellow gay players adds to his newly found affection for the sport.

"Growing up, tennis was a good distraction from my dealing with my attraction to guys. Now it's more fun. It's also more enjoyable, the fact that I can be out and playing."

Berman will play in A singles and B doubles. "What I've come to realize is that I am a good athlete," he said. "Being involved in Gay Games will be exciting. I think it helps to eliminate the stereotype that gay men aren't athletic."

Along with a monthly membership newsletter and many social activities, the not-for-profit organization was founded in 1979 and includes 300-plus active members. The USGO has established itself as a growing branch of the GLBT sports club in the Bay Area.

To watch matches, stop by the Golden Gate Park tennis courts and other locations this weekend. For more info, visit www.gltf.org.

Mat attack

Golden Wrestling Club continues its Memorial Day tradition with a full weekend of practices, instruction for beginners, social events, and a full-scale tournament with more than 20 wrestlers arriving from Los Angeles, Seattle, and elsewhere.

Coach Gene Dermody said that up to 140 participants have registered for Sydney's competition in November, which now includes a novice division. Over a dozen Golden Gate members will compete at Gay Games VI, once again sending a powerhouse of varying weight-level men and women with years of experience.

Several GGWC members competed in exhibition matches at this month's 70th annual Far Western Tournament at San Francisco State University. Some 300 wrestlers competed in freestyle, and 100 also sparred in the Greco division.

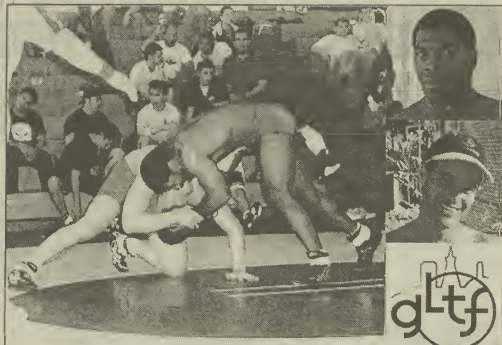
Calvin Malone wrestled open Greco and freestyle in the 180 weight class, but gave up four one-point losses in each case.

"I like competing, but I wasn't in competition shape," said Malone, who won the same Far Western Greco division 12 years ago.

He's more relaxed about training, and modest about his impressive athletic past. Being out now is quite different than his years as a three-time high school state finalist.

Even as a star athlete in college at Vallejo, he couldn't be out. "I had to be a good boy."

Along with high school style, he found that he did better in freestyle and Greco. In freestyle, he competed at state finals five times in the 149 weight class. Now



Match, set, game: Calvin Malone, above, at the Far Western; Malone, top right, tennis player Paul Brockmann, and the new GLTF logo.

he wrestles at 163.

"I used to train like crazy," said Malone. "Now it's for fun."

Because of his impressive record, he said, "People are going to expect things that I'm not going to produce." His past victories can work against him, particularly with new opponents expecting champion-level skills.

He spars two to three times a week with Golden Gate members where, despite his modesty, he remains an affable and tenacious training partner.

"It sucks to be good, because a lot of people don't want to wrestle me," said Malone. "I like to wrestle people who'll beat me, so I can have a challenge. But mostly I'm there to get a good workout."

Sydney will mark his the first time at Gay Games and competing outside of the U.S.

Malone admits that there still are tensions between openly gay athletes and the high school and college wrestlers for whom being out remains an impossibility.

Coach Dermody said that this makes Golden Gate's presence at events like the Far Western more important.

Other GGWC participants at the Far Western included Anthony Dlugos, Ci Durney, and Pete DuBois.

Durney's was the final match of the day, paired against perennial Open veteran champ Ron Hughes of San Jose. It was billed as the battle of the oldest wrestlers in the tournament. Durney hung in through the match and took the silver in a 2-6 loss.

Newcomer Masahito Suzuki wrestled Open freestyle in the most competitive division. He had to, as the youngest GGWC member (23), he was faced with the daunting task of facing the eventual second and third place winners of his division in his first two rounds. Masa did score takedowns immediately, but eventually was defeated.

"Participation in the Far Western has now become a tradition, and I hope GGWC sticks with it," said Dermody.

Practices and social events for Memorial Day weekend take place Friday and Saturday. Sunday's tournament starts at 2 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec Center. For more info, visit www.ggwc.org.

Do run, run

SF Frontrunners 23rd annual Pride Run takes place June 29 at Golden Gate Park's Stow Lake Boathouse at 9 a.m. Events include a 5K run (3.1 miles), 5K walk (3.1 miles), 10K run (6.2 miles), and a wheelchair division.

Proceeds from the run will be donated to the Positive Resource Center and Metropolitan Community Foundation.

The USATF-certified and sanctioned 5K and 10K course starts and finishes at the Stow Lake Boathouse off Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park. The course is on

asphalt, with gently rolling hills.

Registration is \$22 if postmarked by June 19, \$25 after June 19 and on the day of the race. Online registration is available at www.active.com for \$24 (including processing fee) until June 26. Race packets will be mailed to all pre-registered participants who have registered by June 19.

Late registration at Stow Lake picnic area is from 7:30-8:45 on race day morning. Late registrants can pick up their packets on race day morning at the number pickup table.

T-shirts: A stylish, 100 percent cotton, short-sleeve T-shirt is included—pick up before or after the race on race day morning in the registration area.

Awards will be given to the top female and male finishers of the 5K/10K runs in the following divisions: under 20, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over, plus medals to the first male and female in the 5K walk and wheelchair divisions.

The awards ceremony following the run will be in the picnic area by Stow Lake Boat House, with a potluck picnic celebration provided by San Francisco Frontrunners. For more info, visit www.sffrontrunners.org.

Scrum unbelievable

The inaugural Mark Kendall Bingham Cup on June 28-29, at Golden Gate Park promises to be a big event. With Nike and Guinness as major sponsors of the event, you can be sure there'll be a lot of coverage, and some very thick beer.

The competition prize is named in honor of San Francisco Fog Rugby Football Club member, Mark Bingham, who died aboard Flight 93 on September 11. Bingham has come to serve as one of the gay heroes of 9/11, and became the subject of tributes on ESPN and other networks.

The competition will pit most of the world's gay rugby teams against each other. Teams from London, Manchester (England), Buenos Aires, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Seattle, and New York will compete, as well as individual players from Australia, New Zealand, Chicago, Toronto, Switzerland, San Francisco's Fog Rugby will host.

Individual players are encouraged to register to be part of the international team that will compete against the established teams. This event is on the same weekend as the San Francisco Pride Parade.

Matches are 15-a-side, according to the rules of the rugby union, and with 20-minute halves. The tournament will be held at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park. For more info, visit www.igrab.net, www.sffog.org, or call (415) 297-8163.

Aussie update

Sydney 2002's registrations have
next page ►

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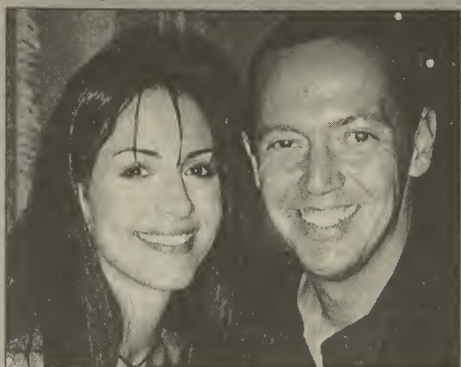
www.pepstudy.com



The HIV Post-Exposure Prevention Project is a study performed by UCSF Researchers at San Francisco General Hospital

COMMUNITY NEWS

A night of stars



Michelle Clunie, left, who plays Melanie on Showtime's *Queer as Folk*, schmoozes with District 8 supe candidate Bevan Duffy at the Destination Foundation's benefit May 16 in San Francisco. The nonprofit foundation grants "dream trips" to people living with life-threatening illnesses, including AIDS and breast cancer. Founder Tim Hepworth noted that this year, the foundation plans to send more people on trips than in the previous two years combined. For more info, visit www.destinationfoundation.org.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

ratic House in November. The former top McCain aide is still "very good friends" with the Republican senator from Arizona and McCain said last week that he blames Weaver's departure from the GOP in part on the Republican Party and White House officials, who, McCain feels, purposely kept Weaver from getting employment from other Republicans. McCain: "He was made totally unwelcome in the Republican Party. I'm sorry, it's regrettable, but I can't deprive a guy of making a living or feeding his family."

Loretta Lynch, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, has been spending a lot of time with a well-known Bay

Area legislator and stronger rumors are swirling.

In Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, people were continuing to lay wreaths, bouquets, and stuffed animals around the home of anti-immigration populist **Pim Fortuyn**, the openly gay political leader who was slain May 6. Fortuyn's political party and other conservative parties swamped the governing socialists in last week's national election and will control the new government at The Hague.

Mayor **Willie Brown** will host a fundraiser breakfast Wednesday, June 5, 8 a.m. at the Fairmont Hotel for **Kevin Shelly's** secretary of state race (\$100,000, 441-6900 for info).

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail
WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

reached the 9,000 mark – ticking over 9,201 paid registrations from 49 countries as of May 9.

Where are they coming from? Since March last year, 14,604 people from 107 countries have logged on and either expressed interest or registered for Sydney 2002 Gay Games. People are coming to Sydney from such diverse places as Bangladesh, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Chad, China, Egypt, Japan, Lebanon, Ecuador, Malaysia, and Tonga. But of course most are coming from those countries which have already experienced Gay Games fever.

USA, 3,707 (40.3 percent); Australia, 1,654 (18 percent); Germany, 885 (9.6 percent); the Netherlands 653 (7.1 percent); Canada 639 (7 percent); United Kingdom 538 (5.8 percent); New Zealand 307 (3.3 percent); and France 168 (1.8 percent).

Registration does not close until July 31, and there is still room for another 5,000 participants.

Registration for some sports has gone way over target. To date there are 550 tri-athletes, 870 tennis stars, 769 track and field participants, 924 marathoners, and 248 cyclists. All these sports have proved very popular and the targets have been extended to allow more people in. The maximums for these sports are 800 for triathlon, 1,000 for tennis, 1,200 for track and field, 2,000 for marathon and 300 for cycling.

Forty-three percent have been to a previous Gay Games. Forty-five registrants have been to all five Gay Games. Three hundred and five have expressed interest in being an official. Forty-three percent of Australian registrants are women. Fifty-six percent of Kiwi (New Zealand) registrants are women. The average age of participants is 38.6 years. The oldest registered participant is 88. The youngest is 19 years old.

Some of the sports for Sydney 2002 are taking place for the first time. These are sailing, field hockey, netball, and touch rugby. All these are team sports (sailing has a three person team). Sailing has already closed and expects strong Aussie and San Francisco participation.

Five sports have closed for Sydney 2002 – swimming, sailing, badminton, golf, and now physique. With 160 registered participants, physique has just closed, but there is a chance to get in on the action. Most sports have a wait list once they have closed – see the sports pages of the Web site.

In some sports, a few of the divisions have already closed – in water polo the Open Division is closed, in volleyball the Men's B Grade, and the B and C Grade Men's Tennis Divisions are about to be closed. To register or for more information, visit www.syd-ney2002.org.au.

For other sports info, visit
www.sportscomplex.org. Get
my novel **PINS** for only \$1 with
your membership to
www.insightoutbooks.com.

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

Animal Care and Control is responsible for the enforcement of all state and local animal control and welfare laws. If you see an animal being abused or neglected, or witness illegal activity involving animals, please call us at 554-9400 immediately.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The DPW believes that it is important to work in partnership with the community. We respond to phone calls and letters from the public, attend community meetings, support neighborhood cleanups and much more. If you belong to a neighborhood or merchant association, we strongly encourage your group to invite us to one of your upcoming meetings. At your meeting, we can make a presentation on how we can better serve your special neighborhood concerns and distribute important information on how to reach us. If you are interested in a visit from us, please call Karin Flood Eklund at 641-2381. We look forward to hearing from you!

JOB OPENINGS, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

City Government Recycling Coordinator. The Recycling Coordinator develops, coordinates, implements and evaluates source reduction, reuse and recycling programs for City Government, including but not limited to, paper, plastics, metals, and organic materials; prepares and manages program budgets; provides technical assistance to businesses and agencies; administers grants & contracts; and administers the Resource Conservation Ordinance and other legislative mandates. Salary: \$60,762 - \$73,866 Annual. Minimum Qualifications: BA Degree and five years experience. Deadline May 31, 2002. For application form, go to www.sfenvironment.com after 05/13/02.

City Toxics Reduction Coordinator. The City Toxics Reduction Program Manager (TRPM) is responsible for day to day implementation and oversight of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Ordinance and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Ordinance. The TRPM is responsible for solving pest problems, implementing pilot projects of new technologies, and reporting to the Commission on the Environment on an annual basis on the progress of the pesticide reduction effort. In addition, the TRPM interfaces with the public on questions of less toxic products and works with other government agencies to reduce the impact of toxic materials on the San Francisco Bay and surrounding areas. The TRPM supervises 2 Program Associates and is responsible for managing professional services contracts for technical assistance in both the IPM and EPP programs. Salary: \$60,762 - \$73,866 Annual. Minimum Qualifications: BA Degree and five years experience. Deadline May 31, 2002. For application form, go to www.sfenvironment.com after 05/13/02.

CITY CLINIC

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th St., between Folsom and Harrison Sts., and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Department of the Environment/Power Saver Program is hiring people for the summer.

For a more detailed job description, please visit our website: sfenvironment.org

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 257001

The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. City Living, 1438 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Moeller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257267

The following person(s) are doing business as: TravelMaestros.com, 1642 Hyde Street, #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Wei Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2002.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257350

The following person(s) are doing business as: Deathray Theatre Group, 104 Bennington Street #C, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Emily S. Frank and Laura C. Baca. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2002.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257380

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chetize-Gem-Design, 3549 Lawton Street #628, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Felix Y. Tse, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/02/2002.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257429

The following person(s) are doing business as: IGB & Associates, 1571 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gary Millare. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 16, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/06/2002.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540228

In the Matter of the Application of Susan Elaine Virgil, For change of Name. The application of Susan Elaine Virgil for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Susan Elaine Virgil has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to - Suzanne Elaine Virgil. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02540260

In the Matter of the Application of Kristy Marie Kelm For change of Name. The application of Kristy Marie Kelm for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kristy Marie Kelm has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kristy Marie Shelgren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257540
The following person(s) are doing business as: Arra Medical Billing Services, 727 Dartmouth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Freddy Rodriguez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002.
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257547
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bidet Kit, 1930 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Latora Salvatore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002.
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING
CONSULTANT
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS
CENTER
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

City College of San Francisco (CCSF) announces a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for full service architectural and engineering services for the New Community Health and Wellness Center. This project will entirely replace the two existing 65 year old gymnasiums on the Ocean Avenue Campus. The new 100,000 square foot facility will provide program space for physical education classes, team sports, a computerized fitness center, Dance Theater Complex, and student health services, as well as staff offices and other support spaces. The building will also include a 25-meter swimming pool. The project budget is \$44,000,000. Firms interested in providing consultant services are asked to submit a statement of qualifications. Candidate firms will be required to follow a multi-step selection procedure consisting of 1) qualification document review, 2) background and reference check, and 3) oral interviews. Respondents shall submit twenty (20) complete copies of their qualification documents as specified in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) package. All respondents' documents must arrive at the Office of Facilities Planning & Construction prior to 5:00 pm Friday, June 14, 2002.

Late and/or incomplete submissions will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered.

After review of qualifications, the College will invite selected firms to interview. Design work is expected to begin in September 2002 and construction is planned to be completed by September 2005.

The RFQ package will be available after Friday

May 10, 2002 and may be requested via fax only

from: Mr. Maslan Lam

Office of Facilities Planning & Construction 50

Phelan Avenue, B-601 San Francisco, California

94112

t: 415-239-3947

f: 415-452-5277

An R.F.Q. Orientation Meeting for candidate

firms/teams will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 at

2:00 pm, in the Visual Arts Building, Room V114,

Ocean Avenue Campus, 50 Phelan Ave, San Francisco.

Entrance to the parking area is off of

Judson Avenue at Geary Street.

SLBE POLICY ON CONSTRUCTION-

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

It is the policy of the San Francisco Community

College District to ensure full and equal business

opportunity for all Small Local Business Enterprises

(SLBEs) wishing to do business with the District.

Small, minority and women owned businesses are

encouraged to take advantage of prime and sub-

contractor opportunities made available through the SLBE program.

The SLBE participation goal for this project is

25% of the total contract dollar value, throughout

the life of the contract.

For more information about the District's SLBE

program, contact the District's Contract Compliance

Office at (415) 241-2284.

Eligibility in meeting sub-contracting participation

goals and prime consulting incentives is based upon

applicable firms' San Francisco Human Rights

Commission (HRC) certification at the time

proposals are submitted. The District strongly

encourages San Francisco based firms who are not

certified by the HRC and wish to participate on this

and other projects to immediately begin the

certification process. The HRC certification unit can

be reached at (415) 252-2537.

05/23/02

CNS-394823#

BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 257544

The following person(s) are doing business as: J. Fregosi & Son, 4834 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kevin Odolozil. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 8, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02540261

In the Matter of the Application of Christopher Charles Kelm For change of Name. The application of Christopher Charles Kelm for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Christopher Charles Kelm has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Christopher Charles Shelgren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257589
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rocker Guitars, Sporty's Adult Video, 1350 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 9, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002.
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

LEGAL SERVICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 257523
 The following person(s) are doing business
 as: St. Francis Fountain, St. Francis
 Fountain Restaurant. 2801 24th Street,
 San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is
 conducted by a limited liability company
 signed Levon Kazarian, principal. The
 registrant(s) commenced to transact
 business under the above listed fictitious
 business name or names on May 08 2002.
 The statement was filed with the City and
 County of San Francisco, Ca. on
 05/08/2002.
MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

JOBS OFFERED

LARKIN Larkin Street
STREET Youth Services

"Helping kids get off the street for good"

Larkin Street Youth Services (LSYS) is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective medical, psychosocial, employment, education, and housing services. Our mission is "To create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the streets. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all."

Come be a part of making a difference in young people's lives!

Food Service Specialist: creative and experienced cook with demonstrated ability to plan and prepare nutritious meals and snacks for populations with special needs. Main responsibility will be coordinating meals for the residents of the Assisted Care Facility. Plan menus one month in advance and keep on file. Resourceful in maintaining and creating community contacts to supplement budgeted food allowances. Maintain kitchen equipment and supplies. Prepare special meals or snacks for very ill residents with special needs as instructed. \$31 - 33K DOE.

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Counselor: provide guidance, information, and services within the agency's mission and goals, to homeless and runaway youth who have been abused, are at risk for or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Maintain a safe and supportive multi-cultural environment. Ability to work with, and relate to, diverse high-risk adolescents and young adults who are living on the streets. Motivate clients to explore and accept alternatives to street life. Plan and implement educational programs and activities for youth and monitor their outcomes. Overnight, evening, and weekend shifts required. Valid CA Driver's License required. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus. \$28K.

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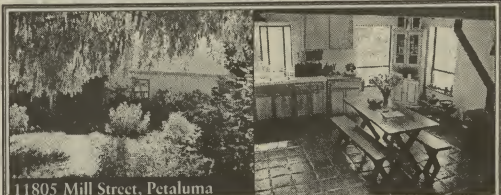
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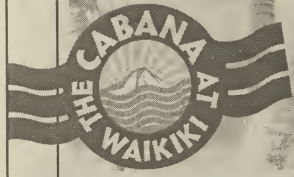
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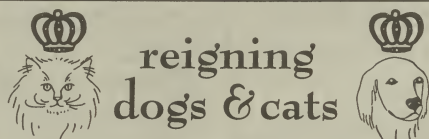
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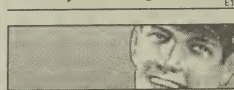
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Making a point of celebrating identity
Gay independent musicians Steve Snelling,
John Ashfield, Drew Paralic, Andy Northrup.
page 36

Latin lessons in porn
Karrnal Knowledge
samples three collections.
page 43



Look back in anger
Aurora Theatre does
'The Entertainer' right.
page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 32 • No. 21 • 23 May 2002

BAY AREA REPORTER

RUPERT EVERETT GOES WILDE

HE KNOWS 'THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST'

by Brandon Judell

Surprisingly, even for young homosexuals, those who only have faint memories of Boy George and colored handkerchiefs in the back pocket, Oscar Wilde is still a recognizable entity.

What's he known for? you ask them.
"Wieners," they say.

No, that's Meyer. Oscar Meyer.

"Oh, then he's the one imprisoned for being a homosexual, and he wrote *The Importance of Being Earnest*."

Absolutely. For being so smart, your reward is that the very same folks who delightfully filmed another Wilde play a few years ago, *An Ideal Husband*, have now brought *Importance* to the screen. And once again, Rupert Everett is the star.

Everett is a much-praised, 6'4" novelist, Madonna's gay boytoy off-screen, and Julia Roberts' queer dear on-screen (*My Best Friend's Wedding*). This Brit stud of style first burst into our hearts in *Another Country* (1984), in which he portrayed Guy Bennett, a real-life homosexual student who, after taking his heartthrob (Cary Elwes) rowboating, became a Russian spy. Other portrayals of note: Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; the narrator of *Paragraph 173*; Christopher Marlowe in *Shakespeare in Love*; and the Prince of Wales in *The Madness of King George*. Let's be kind and not mention *Inspector Gadget* and *The Next Best Thing*.

Well, the *Bay Area Reporter* recently caught up with the cast of *Importance* at the Essex Hotel on Central Park South. So before we got to Mr. Everett, we decided to check out what he really was like by folks forced to work with him.

Frances O'Connor, who played the mom in *A.I.* and Gwendolyn in the new film, screamed, "Great!"

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Rupert Everett and
Colin Firth in Oliver
Parker's *The Importance
of Being Earnest*

Paul Chedlow

MUSICAL GARDEN PARTY

VIVIAN FINE'S FEMINIST OPERA IN BERKELEY

by Stephanie von Buchau

The Berkeley Symphony's Kent Nagano recently told a story about an 83-year-old reclusive Russian composer, Galina Ustvolskaya, whose Fourth Symphony he is to perform with BSO in September. Her work is apparently not played as much as Nagano thinks it should be, given its high compositional and spiritual qualities, because the composer has "a definitely prickly personality. When I called to tell her I was going to program her symphony, she hung up on me!"

I couldn't help thinking of this anecdote when Berkeley Opera announced that it would perform Vivian Fine's one-act feminist opera, *The Women in the Garden*. Fine (1913-2000) was not as "prickly" as her contemporary Ustvolskaya, but then the only social and political horror the Chicago-born composer lived through was the degrading aspect of trying to be both artist and woman in mid-century America. Ustvolskaya, a devout religionist, had to write "tractor music" to satisfy the Stalinists, all the while secretly creating the terse personal pieces that attracted Nagano.

page 37 ►



Back: Gertrude Stein
(Jennifer Boesing), Isadora
Duncan (Lane McNab);
front: Virginia Woolf
(Melissa Xanthe Stevens),
Emily Dickinson (Narelle
Yeo) in Berkeley Opera's
The Women in the Garden

Elliot Khuner

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and House of Sheilas

High-profile entries in the 26th SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Fest, coming June 13-30, include, as opening night choices, new films from Hong Kong director **Stanley Kwan** (*Lan Yu*) and high-larious comic **Margaret Cho** (concert film *Notorious C.H.O.*) This year's fest, 290 works from 33 countries, will also offer a first look at the new British TV series *Bob & Rose*, written by **Russell T. Davies**, creator of the original UK *Queer As Folk*.

We're certainly looking forward to many unusual and esoteric offerings. From China comes *The Snake Boy* (directors **Michelle Chen** and **Li Xiao**), a documentary about one **Coco Zhan**, an openly gay and very popular jazz singer (in Mandarin, English subtitles). Director **Gabriel Baur**'s exploration of the lives of drag kings, *Venus Boyz*, centers on New York City's drag-kings meeting place Club Casanova. And *Whether You Like It or Not: The Story of Hedwig* purports to be The Definitive History of the Hedwig/Angry Inch phenomenon, from just an inkling in **John Cameron Mitchell**'s pretty blonde head to international sensation (director: **Laura Nix**).

Your Auntie Out There's got the exloos scoop that the Frameline Fest will bring the public coming out of Hollywood actor **Gerald McCullouch**, who plays **Bobby Dawson** on TV's *C.S.I.* McCullouch wrote, directed and acts in a short film, *The Moment After*, part of the fest's *Strange*



John Cameron Mitchell as Hedwig, backstage at Fez in the early days.

Bedfellows program. He stars opposite yummy out gay Spanish actor **Gabriel Romero**, who happens to play the first openly gay character on Spanish TV, **Fernando**, on Telemundo sitcom *Los Bieles*.

So isn't it about time for that humpy TV actor (appearing at the gay film fest this year — in a crossdressing romp, to boot!) to come charging out of the Hollywood closet? Queens whose refer-

ence libraries go back a few years will find this *'Friend'ly Stud* (in the days before his hit sitcom made him highly bankable) bare-chested, beefy, and barely dressed, as the poster boy on the cover of that famous gay travel guide!

There's much more to come in these pages, all about the bonanza of gay glitter, international intrigue, and illicit trysting that is SFILGFF '02; meantime, visit www.frameline.org, or pick up the well-designed program guide, just out this week.

Hanging out Down Under

As leaked by our own column last week, OT has just returned from a whirlwind press tour of Australia that brought us in close proximity with the country's natural wonders — some of them wearing nothing but Aussie life-guard-style "cossies!" Full story and salacious details to follow next week, we promise. While we were in Oceania, a group of self-appointed *Guardians of Public Morality* rallied their feeble forces to try to block Aussie stage sensation *Puppetry of the Penis* from

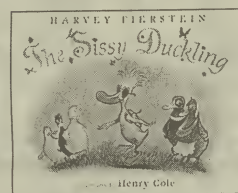
its scheduled appearance at the Royal Wanganui Opera House in New Zealand. Despite such scattered opposition, a courageous district council's emergency meeting ended by confirming that the May 28 booking will indeed go on. After all, the show's attractions are really just another form of finger puppets. It all depends on what your definition of digit is.

Alas, there's always some *Delicate Flower* out there trying to make the world safe for mediocrity. When classic lesbian pulp novelist

Ann Bannon took in a performance of **F. Allen Sawyer**'s hit play *Lavender Lockroom* at Theatre Rhino recently, Hot Pants Homo player **Deena Davenport** regaled Bannon with the tale of how, after a performance piece based on Bannon's *Women in the Shadows* at a fundraiser for the *Women's Action Coalition*, some vocal audience members were offended by its perceived depiction of women-on-women violence, poor things.

Fairest fowl

If you want to keep up with what's really *avant-garde* in literature right now, put down your copy of *The Corrections* and head over to the children's book section, where you will find *The Sissy Duckling*, just out this month



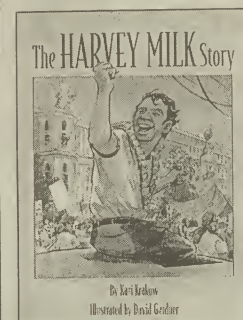
from Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. **Harvey Fierstein** wrote the story, and **Henry Cole** drew the lively pictures, in this timeless tale of **Elmer**, a boy duckling who just can't hit a ball, and tends to play with the girls.

Elmer charts a course of difference and redemption, as the water-fowl community learns the value of having a queer duck around. Fierstein, who based the book on his screenplay for a 1999 HBO ani-

mated special, offers apologies to original content provider **Hans Christian Andersen** (who we know would have loved Elmer) and dedicates the book "to proud sissies everywhere."

Also this month, Two Lives Publishing, a small press which regularly brings out children's books for kids in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered families, releases *The Harvey Milk Story*, written by **Kari Krakow** and illustrated by **David Gardner**, billed as the first children's book to tell the life

and death of San Francisco's very own historic civil-rights leader. "No one would have ever guessed that the little kid with big ears would one day make history!"



We're sorry to report that the book contains a few factual inaccuracies which seem to be the fault of lazy research, as when it calls Milk the first openly gay elected city official in the United States of America (there was a lesbian city councilor in Massachusetts first). But the book gets the emotional truth of the story right, including its tragic ending.

"People everywhere were stunned by the news of the double assassination. ... Crowds began forming in front of City Hall. They stood in silence, carrying candles. That night the people of San Francisco wept."

One more groundbreaking children's book: *King & King*, by **Linda de Haan & Stern Nijland** (Tricycle Press), in which the *Queen* decrees it's time for the *Prince* to marry. A parade of

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PHOTO BY KENT TAYLOR

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THEATRE

Archie's place

Aurora's pro 'Entertainer'

by Richard Dodds

During an intermission at Aurora Theatre's *The Entertainer*, Chron critic Rob Hurwitz swiveled around in his seat to say, "Not bad for an amateur theater."

He was referring to the "Best Amateur Theater" title bestowed upon the Berkeley troupe by the readers of the *East Bay Express*. They no doubt meant well, and were maybe confused by the Aurora's by-design small size, but there is nothing amateurish about Aurora.

This is abundantly true of the current production of John Osborne's biting 1957 play, best remembered for Laurence Olivier's stage and screen performance as the soul-dead vaudevillian Archie Rice. Most of the cast of eight at Aurora have asterisks by their names, identifying them as members of Actors' Equity, an official professional designation that in itself is not a guarantee of quality.

But in the case of *The Entertainer*, those little symbols do signal a high-quality ensemble tightly packed in Aurora's handsome new theater. These fine performers help breathe new life into a play that is very much of its period, but that also resonates in the current global environment.

Set in 1956 in a British resort town, the play begins with retired music-hall performer Billy Rice doddering on about the incurable ills of the Middle East, the influx of immigrants, and the fact that "you can't tell the women from the men." Britain, still throwing off its postwar malaise, is now mired in the Suez Canal crisis that strikes another blow against the evaporating concept of "empire."

The Entertainer, Osborne's follow-up to his groundbreaking *Look Back in Anger*, watches its title character both onstage and at home. But no matter where he is, Archie Rice cannot rally any enthusiasm for life. His deadened spirit also affects his family, including his second wife, slacker son, wary daughter, and pontificating father. There is another son, the apparent pride of the family, who is part of the British forces in the Middle East.

In certain ways, *The Entertainer* is a play that anticipates Pinter (the ominous undercurrent of family secrets), Albee (the booze-fueled recriminations), and even the musical *Cabaret* (outside-the-action songs that still offer commentary). It's a depressing tale, certainly, but one with frequent humor and five meaty roles.

What makes the Aurora's production so worthwhile is how well



Charles Dean plays Archie Rice

those meaty roles have been filled. The wonderful Charles Dean creates his own variation on Archie, his face locked in the equivalent of a helpless shrug. Phoebe Moyer, as Archie's wife, creates a character of vivid suffering that never falters. There is a quiet intensity to Emily Ackerman's work as Archie's daughter, and Alex Moggridge builds a distinct character from slender ingredients as Archie's draft-dodging son.

Director Tom Ross has effectively staged the play in the intimate confines of the Aurora, a theater that lets you feel like a fly on the wall of a spiritually crumbling house. ▼

The Entertainer will run at the Aurora Theatre through June 16. Tickets are \$26-\$35. Call (510) 843-4822.

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— Richard Leabonte, *Book Marks*, April 2002

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Drama drag kings

All-woman 'Fool for Love' at Rhino Studio

by Richard Dodds

Maybe it's a lack of confidence or maybe just a lack of interest, but Sam Shepard hasn't found a lot of room for women in his plays. That hasn't deterred a new fem-centric theater company from taking on *Fool for Love*.

Actually, *Fool for Love* is something of an exception to the men-mostly rule, with a male and a female protagonist about equal in the import of their roles. Now a new group calling itself USStickEm Productions has upped the ante on that, turning this slam-bang play into a totally distaff affair.

The program and press release attempt to be coy about this, offering only first initials for the given names of the cast, but it's no surprise when Mantra Plonsey, Dorothy Adams, and Desi del Valle turn up in the male roles. What may be a surprise is how well this drag-king approach works.

It's an approach that works well on two levels: as a production with women doing a good job impersonating men, or as a lesbian drama that only occasional references contradict. Of course, there are many male-dominated plays that USStickEm could have chosen for this treatment, but it's easy to see why *Fool for Love* got the nod.

This is a brawl of a play, as May (Stephanie Taylor) and Eddie (Plonsey) play out a violently ritualized affair in a seedy motel room. Chairs are thrown, tequila guzzled, and passionate embraces quickly turn into wrestling matches. They were lovers, we find out, before they discovered they share the same father.

Mantra Plonsey, Stephanie Taylor, and Desi del Valle in *Fool for Love*

The bilious spirit of their father (Adams), identified as the Old Man, is in the motel room with them, watching the proceedings with dark glee and inflaming it with periodic denunciations. The only other character is the pliable Martin (del Valle), who gets considerably more than he bargained for when he arrives to take May to the movies. He is a Shepard version of the Gentleman Caller.

Directors Meg Murphy and Joan Grinde haven't let the small space of Theatre Rhino's Studio inhibit the physicality of the play. I'm not sure the violence is supposed to be as funny as some in the opening-night audience found it, but there is undeniable electricity when actors go at it full-throttle only a few feet away. The four members of the cast are in bracing touch with their characters, even if Adams is a few decades too young to play the Old Man.

Fool for Love is an unsettling look at what can be the malignant magnet of family. Shepard offers no salvation for his characters and

no catharsis for the audience beyond its vicarious participation in the onstage storms. But for 90 non-stop minutes, it's quite a ride. ▼

Fool for Love will run in the Theatre Rhino Studio through June 9. Tickets are \$14-\$16.

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Mother's play

'Seeing Her Again'

by Richard Dodds

Michel Tremblay may be the most famous playwright you've never heard of. The gay French-Canadian, celebrated in his own country for more than three decades, hasn't found much recognition on this side of the border. A few of his plays have been seen in the Bay Area, but not in a long while.

ACT is now giving one of his later plays a high-profile debut in these parts, although *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* doesn't seem cut from the pattern of his career-making style. Terms such as "gritty," "graphic," and "outrageously frank" have been applied to his 1968 breakthrough play *Les belles-soeurs*, but they have no place in a review of the overtly affable *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*.

The title in this case really does tell the story. Tremblay has created a reunion with his drama-queen mother, who died five years before he found recognition as a playwright. Look Ma, he seems to be saying. I turned out all right.

ACT regular Marco Barricelli plays the narrator, a transparent stand-in for the playwright, but he is really only there as a foil for the mother. In a series of discourses on subjects that are deceptively mundane, mother and son reenact key moments from their lives together. Whether it's a scolding for a 10-

year-old's misdeed, or simply an account of watching a TV show years later, the mother uses high-flying imagination to engage and stimulate her son.

That these near-monologues are delivered by Olympia Dukakis also helps elevate them from the everyday. This is Dukakis' fourth appearance with ACT, and provides her with a more varied and pleasing character than her most recent appearance here in the strident *Hecuba*. This is much more the Olympia we know and love from *Moonstruck*, and *Steel Magnolia*—memorable, perceptive, and in an opening night, it is as occasional un- as the monster line-

Dukakis, but still creates a reactive character of considerable appeal. Carey Perloff, ACT's artistic director, has staged the two-character play without fuss on a bare stage that gives way to a wish-fulfillment scenic explosion (by Ralph



Olympia Dukakis and Marco Barricelli at the Geary

Funicello) in the final moments.

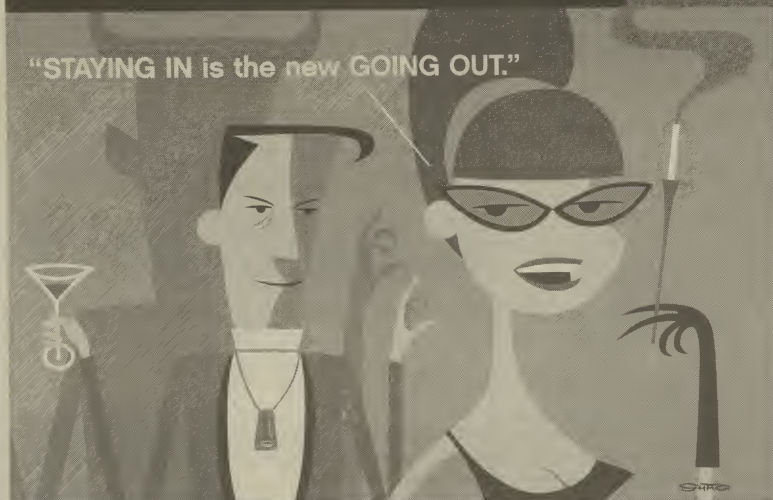
For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again deals obliquely with the playwright's gayness, a source of some obvious concern to his mother. But mostly it's a jolly ride down a memory lane that's just a little bit too long. ▼

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again will run at the Geary Theatre through June 9. Tickets are \$15-\$61. Call 749-2228.

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FILM

Sleepless in Alaska

Christopher Nolan scores with 'Insomnia'

by Robert Julian

What was the best picture of 2001? There is no doubt in my mind; it was writer/director Christopher Nolan's *Memento*. And in spite of my respect for Nolan's demon-

strated brilliance, I approached his latest film with fears of potential disappointment. But *Insomnia* proves to be another first-rate motion picture, more accessible than the complex and difficult *Memento*, but no less rewarding.

Working with an intelligent script by Hillary Seitz, Nolan ex-

plores the crime/thriller genre with a quirky sense of time and place, as well as a highly-developed sense of moral ambiguity. Dormer (Al Pacino) and Hap (Martin Donovan) are Los Angeles detectives flown to a small Alaskan town to investigate the murder of a 17-year-old girl. But the two partners arrive with some unfinished business of their own. Both men are the subject of an internal affairs investigation into their practices, and Hap is about to cut a deal with the investigators in exchange for his testimony. Donovan isn't pleased with Hap's decision.

The men begin assisting the murder investigation with the help of a local greenhorn cop (Hilary Swank) who is a great admirer of Dormer's work. In the land of the midnight sun, the Los Angeles detectives feel the increasing strain of sleeplessness, especially Dormer. The investigation leads them to several local suspects, the most promising being a reclusive local author, Walter Finch (Robin Williams). In the course of their investigation, Dormer, Hap, and the local detectives set a trap for their prime suspect. But when he arrives at a dark, foreboding beach house, a police bullhorn goes off accidentally and the cops must pursue the suspect on foot, over rocks and between trees shrouded in fog. There are two gunshots, one cop is wounded in the shoulder, and Hap is killed. From this



Al Pacino, as Dormer, roughs up Robin Williams, as author Walter Finch

The joys of J.O.

Good Vibes shows clips

by Gary Morris

A recent count by some scientist with time on his hands put the number of synonyms for masturbation at 1,700. Not bad for an activity that's still considered, at least in the public discourse, a distant third (after intercourse and oral sex) in the Respectable Sex Sweepstakes.

Fortunately, not everyone is skittish on this subject. Good Vibrations, aka The Dildo Store, has declared May the seventh National Masturbation Month, with a number of pud-pounding, ditch-ditching activities lined up. Those who missed the One-Handed Reading event and the Masturbate-a-Thon can still pay homage to this humble but heavenly activity by attending *Wankers* at the Parkway Theatre in Oakland on May 25.

Curated and presented by sexologist Carol Queen, *Wankers* is a clip show of excerpts from a variety of masturbation-related videos, with something for just about every taste. Not all of the entries here are unfamiliar. Scenes from *Hard Love* and *How to Fuck in High Heels* will be recalled by attendees of one of the Trannyfests. These dildo-drenched epics feature the ever-welcome candy-colored dildoes aggressively wielded by sex-crazed trannies and dykes. Some of the faces here are also familiar. The inescapable Ron "the Hedgehog" Jeremy weighs in as a porn agent interviewing a potential starlet and demanding she masturbate. (In an amusing touch typical of commercial porn, her character shifts from virgin to slut, complete with detailed porn *patois*, in milliseconds.)

Another demimonde celeb, edge-play performance artist Ron Athey, appears in an excerpt from the feature-length *Hot Men, Cool Boyz*. He's seen sitting naked in what looks like a funeral parlor, furiously jacking off with one hand and typing on a laptop on the other. (He's writing a letter to his boyfriend Andreas.) Athey's performance won him a Best Solo Actor nomination from GayVN.com, perhaps for his Olivier-like delivery of lines like, "I know sometimes I disgust you when I slurp your ass after fucking you, but I'm a bona fide pig." Per-snicket viewers may not buy the "pig" moniker when they hear his subsequent references to "talking over candlelit dinners."

One of the pleasures of *Wankers* is its spotlighting of non-stars, seemingly average people who make self-exploration sexy through sheer horniness. One red-hot sequence features a woman kneeling on her bed getting

pounded by a noisy motor-driven dildo. Despite the plush trappings of the room, the scene focuses single-mindedly on the woman and the intensity of her experience. In another fun clip, *Welcum to Chloeville*, the chatty title character explains, "When I orgasm, I go to a totally different world that I call Chloeville." Despite her seeming self-entrancement, she wants to share this world with her girlfriends, and through the miracle of the turkey baster (a particularly industrial-looking model here), she's able to "draw out my cum and drip it onto their pussies!"

The show has a recurring theme of boundary-busting that, in two of the clips, takes the form of exceptional physical flexibility. In the opening sequence, set in a parking garage, a lithe blonde slaps a dildo onto a car window and manages to self-hump her way to paradise with one leg on top of the car. In *Young Man from Nantucket*, the title character adds another dimension to the idea of self-love through the magic of self-sucking.

Another hunk is at the center of *Estatic Moments*. Here we see an exceptionally built naked guy on a stage, being objectified by a group of rowdy, cat-calling women. With "bottom" practically stamped on his forehead, Hunky Boy submits to a dominatrix. She forces him to masturbate, in mesmerizing detail, in front of everybody, as if avenging years of male-dominated porn.

The show provides a nice balance of titillation with education. In the latter camp fall Sexpositive Productions' *Slide Bi Me* and *Please Don't Stop: Lesbian Tips for Givin' & Gettin' It*. Most amusing in this category is the clip from *Secrets of Self-Pleasuring for Couples*. Here a '50s-style voiceover explains various sexual scenarios to a pair of heteros (size queens will find this one must-viewing), who then act them out: "Tom then shows Holly how he likes to be pleased."

Queers are also well represented here. *Solo Male Ecstasy* features a hunky sexboy and a similar earnest voiceover: "Some men masturbate without ever touching the shaft of their penis... fingering or slapping your buttocks invokes for some a secret sensual pleasure they might not share with their partner." And with a hand (or in the case of the double-jointed *Man from Nantucket*, a mouth) reassuringly nearby, who needs the pressures of a partner? As Michael in *The Boys in the Band* reminded us, "One thing you can say for masturbation. You don't have to look your best." ▼

www.goodvibes.com

point forward, *Insomnia* tell the simultaneous tale of investigations into two deaths. There are no easy answers to the questions of loyalty, revenge, intention, and responsibility that the script raises.

Cinematographer Wally Pfister and editor Dody Dorn assemble a good-looking film. The crisp, forlorn wilderness of Alaska has never seemed more mysterious, and Dorn assembles Pfister's beautiful, haunting images to reinforce the escalating tensions of the story. All of the performances are first-rate, with Pacino and Williams anchoring the film, and Swank and Donovan supporting them admirably. Swank is a bit underutilized in what is essentially the Sandra Bullock role, but she

brings a credibility that allows the part to transcend the conventional limitations of the ingenue cop.

Christopher Nolan guides and paces the whole production with a masterful touch. *Insomnia* is not a simple whodunit cop caper. Who did what, to whom, is perfectly clear almost from the beginning. What is not clear is why it was done, or what the consequences and repercussions of an individual's actions will, or should be. This is what keeps the audience engrossed, and the ability to articulate this dilemma makes Christopher Nolan the master filmmaker that he is. ▼

Insomnia opens Friday.

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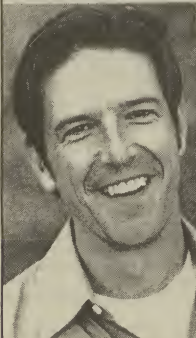
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Making You Look Great!

Spin cycle

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Twenty-nine years ago the phrase, "What did he know and when did he know it" became inextricably linked to the Presidency, as the Watergate scandal broke and reporters queried Richard Nixon's involvement. Now it's déjà vu all over again in Washington. Last Thursday, ABC leaked the story that the White House and President Bush had been notified by FBI sources that Arab nationals might use planes to attack buildings in large metropolitan areas. The World Trade Center was noted in the memo. The sources were deemed impeccable.

The revelation has been going through the spin cycle ever since. Having learned nothing from the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, the Bush team went into defensive overdrive. Rather than telling the media that intelligence matters weren't up for discussion (the Rumsfeld defense), they sent Ari Fleischer out in super-defensive mode (is Fleischer an actual human, or some sort of government cloning project?) and then trotted out Condi Rice and Rumsfeld for more spin. Friday, less than 14 hours after the story broke, Dr. Strangelove himself, Vice Pres. Dick Cheney, was spinning a web of lies to net the Democrats calling for an investigation. That three Republican members of the Intelligence Committee were also asking for clarification in the form of congressional hearings, including arch-conservative Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Alabama) and maverick Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona), got lost in the media translation.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, also on the committee, appeared on *Nightline* sounding smarter (which always spins into "shrill" in the news) than ever. Feinstein, up against former CIA head James Woolsey, noted that the counterterrorism unit *should* have received all the memoranda on Moussaoui (the alleged 20th hijacker) and the plans by Arab nationalists to learn to fly in the US, if everyone had been doing their job.



Lavender Tube

It's that if that will inevitably result in far more than a TV news cycle or two. September 11 was a defining moment in American history. If 3,000 people died and thousands more had their lives altered forever by an event that could have been prevented, Bush can expect to go the way of his father as a one-term President.

Port of call

Speaking of one-term Presidents, part of last week's spin was Jimmy Carter's historic trip to Cuba. One of the only former Presidents to do more out of office than he did in, Carter managed to address the Cuban assembly (in Spanish, no less) in a nationally televised speech. What made the Havana news was his outspokenness against the US trade embargo on Cuba; what made the Washington news was his call for free elections and an end to the Castro dictatorship.

The trip met with mixed reviews in both Cuba and the US. Republican fundraiser Monty Warner gave a withering dismissal of Carter's trip on *Politically Incorrect*: "He was the worst President ever. Carter knows three things: peanuts, hammers and nails [referring to Carter's work for Habitat for Humanity]. He should stick to them."

Anyone complaining about the so-called "liberal media" should consider Carter's trip as a litmus. TV-news coverage of the trip ranged from slim to none. The most exhaustive reportage came from *Good Morning America* political consultant and former Clinton staffer George Stephanopoulos. *Nightline* declined to devote any time to the trip or its ramifications. And a nanosecond after Carter left Havana, 9-11-gate broke. Timing is everything.

One does have to question the dearth of publicity for the Carter trip, given Jeb Bush's gubernatorial run in Little Havana (known outside Florida as Miami) and the intransigence of the Bush Administration on lifting the embargo. The major question posed by the Carter trip, which went unaddressed by the media, is why trading with China (a dictatorship guilty of extreme human rights abuses) is deemed not merely appropriate by the Bush Administration but necessary to keep China from becoming politically isolationist, and trading with Cuba, a mere 90 miles from America's shores and guilty of far less egregious abuses than China, is deemed reprehensible.

It would have been nice to see *Nightline* address the differences between the Chinese American community and the Cuban American community. One group has lobbying power, the other doesn't. As long as Little Havana is a political swing vote (ironically, the one that put Bush in office), we can expect the embargo to remain in

place, and historic trips like Carter's to last barely a single news cycle.

Under cover

The priest scandal also continues to spin. A shooting in Baltimore last week by an alleged victim of an abusive priest netted the shooter the charge of attempted murder, and the priest a few days on the critical list. *Law & Order: SVU* chose the topic for its season finale, with a stellar performance by Oscar-nominated Eric Stoltz as a priest with an intense desire for boys between the ages of 13 and 15. Stoltz's character resisted his urges, maintaining his celibacy. But he was covering for his bishop, who had molested numerous boys.

LeO in all its incarnations has a problematic record of dealing with queer-related issues; however, this episode was handled well, from the opening murder of a transsexual prostitute to the explanation by the show's resident psychiatrist (played with aplomb by B.D. Wong) of the differences between pedophilia and attraction to young teens. Neatly done. The castigation fell not on queers this time, but on the Church hierarchy, where it belongs.

This has also been a week of endings. Tomorrow will be Rosie O'Donnell's last day as the queen of early daytime. O'Donnell chose not to renew her contract, stating her desire to spend more time with her family (four adopted children, and girlfriend Kelly Carpenter is pregnant with the couple's first child together). We were never a big fan of Rosie's show, but we'll miss her out-queer presence on daytime TV. We expect she won't stray too far from the limelight.

Nor, no doubt, will Bill Maher, whose *Politically Incorrect* has been canceled by ABC for, well, political incorrectness. Strain between Maher and ABC has never abated since his post-9/11 comments, and since the show has never managed to climb out of third place in the late-night ratings, it's gone.

Shame on ABC for canceling the only program on network TV with actual unscripted political discourse. The show remains on the air for another month, tune in to see what you'll be missing. *PI* has been the only program to regularly position liberals and conservatives, people of color and whites, queers and straights, Jews and Muslims on its panels. We've often disagreed with Maher, but we've always enjoyed the debate and refreshing lack of spin. Maher will no doubt resurface on cable from whence he came, but he belongs on network TV, where diversity is as rare as integrity in Washington.

Finally, we were relieved that Grace remained unseminated at the end of the *Will & Grace* season finale, and abjure the producers and writers to refrain from turning this not-so-odd couple into a pseudo-queer family. The drama has been interesting, but we would like to see Will get a boyfriend and Grace get a life.

The best scene in the finale was Jack's dream sequence with Cher. We particularly liked the exchange where Jack asks her if she's God and Cher deadpans, "It depends on which bathroom you pray at." To which Jack responds, "It all makes sense: Chastity, Elijah [the names of Cher's children]. You are God."

A moment of truly campy, très gay humor in a week delineated by humorless straights ruining the country. We could do worse — and no doubt will. Stay tuned. ▼

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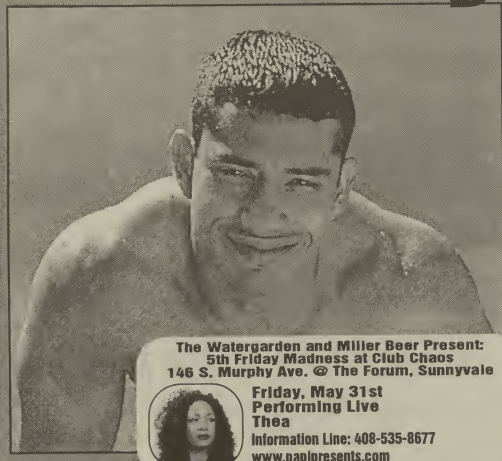
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MUSIC

Combats and caresses

Mixed results in two weeks of MTT concerts

by Philip Campbell

San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas takes the podium at Davies Hall this week to wrap the 2001-02 season. He has now given us an amazing seven years, and betrays no signs of complacency or fatigue. The finale follows his proven formula, lesser-known favorites from beloved composers alongside interesting contemporary works.

The closing program includes Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, not exactly underperformed, but there is a showcase piece for the women of Vance George's sterling SFS Chorus, American composer William Schuman's *Concerto on Old English Rounds*. Everybody's favorite violinist, Geraldine Walther, takes the important solo role. It's a hauntingly lovely work that should prove a happy surprise for subscription listeners.

The last two weeks have been more of a mixed bag by MTT's standards. There have been some notable highlights and one program of quietly conservative merit, but, most recently, the world premiere of Giya Kancheli's *Don't Grieve*, despite valiant efforts by the performers, proved a major dud. A full-length rendition of Ravel's magical ballet *Daphnis et Chloe* almost saved the night with a display of sheer energy, but the interpretation was incohesive and unsubtle.

Georgian composer Kancheli, who now resides in Antwerp, is usually included among the group of Eastern European artists exploring the "new mysticism." His music, like Arvo Part's, is heavily

reliant on the dynamic force of silence. Where Part usually maintains a steady solemnity, Kancheli revels in explosive outbursts. He also employs a collage technique, throwing lush melodies up against harsh dissonances and brief moments of reflection.

Don't Grieve was commissioned by the SFS, and the reasons for choosing this composer remain unclear, although the relative success of his symphonies must have recommended him. I confess to ambivalence about his music but attraction to his intentions. Kancheli has patched together snippets of poems by Shakespeare, Goethe, W.H. Auden, Boris Pasternak, Rilke, Byron, and Dylan Thomas, in music that comments, combats and caresses. Yet, for all the borrowing of words and musical styles, *Don't Grieve* seems embarrassingly bereft of ideas. The pastiche makes no clear ultimate statement, and the moments of tunefulness, if they are meant to be ironic, appear merely vulgar.

Shock value

Baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, with his magnificent shock of platinum hair and gloriously clear tone, was undaunted by the demands of his role. If anyone could have made this mess convincing, he could. MTT was equally committed, but unable to pull a rabbit out of his hat. The audience divided into two obvious camps: those who ran to the lobby, and those who stayed to give a standing ovation. I just sat there and tried to collect my thoughts.

If only Tilson Thomas hadn't tacked on the Prelude to Musorgsky's *Khovanshchina* as a last-minute concert opener and had

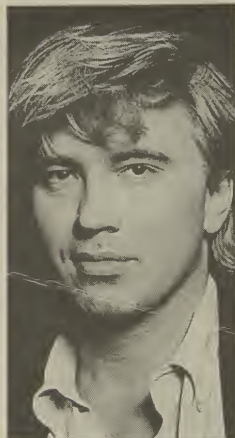
opted for Ravel's two suites from *Daphnis* instead of the whole score, the evening would have been more agreeably brief.

His decisions made musical sense, but the full Ravel can sound like cartoon music in the interlocking episodes, and the choral outpourings a little like some '40s Hollywood score. The sound was spectacular in the big set pieces, but it wasn't enough to keep the concert from being a bit of a trial.

The previous week was atypical MTT. He opened with Mozart's Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* and ended with the Serenade No. 1 in D major by Brahms. He has recorded the Brahms and, as in his forays into Tchaikovsky, it comes as a pleasant surprise to find him in such assured and affectionate form with the old masters. The Mozart came from farther out in left field, but it was perfectly acceptable.

In-between these works came the second time this season for MTT's new concertmaster to play a solo role. Alexander Barantschik has made a good impression so far, but his effect on the string section hasn't been strong enough to warrant an assessment yet. His taste and technique gibe with his conductor's, and that's the important thing.

Choosing the lesser-known Violin Concerto in D minor (1822) by Mendelssohn must have been a mutual decision, and the results were very satisfactory. Barantschik has a cultured and sweet tone, with just enough impetuosity to make the delightful little brother of the E minor a most winning display. It wasn't the biggest event of the season, but it showed MTT's wisdom of choice. ▼



Baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky

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Out There

◀ page 30

available princesses fails to stir the royal libido: but guess who the royal heir really desires. "Presenting Princess Madeleine and her brother, Prince Lee! At last, the Prince felt a stir in his heart."

Press clips

On his terrific new album *When I Was Cruel* (Island), post-punk Elvis Costello sings, "Two newspaper editors, like playground sneaks, running a book on which of them is going to last the week." One high-profile gay journalist, neocon columnist Andrew Sullivan, would have lost that wager last week, when the *New York Times* unceremoniously dumped him from its roster of contributors. We're sure narcissist Andrew will blog *ad nauseam* about it for weeks to come, but for now we're savoring the moment.

Oh well, that's life at the mercy of a big, bad newspaper, where "on a hundred lines, reporters talk at cross-purposes; sub-editors busy themselves with their task of reducing their copy to blank nonsense; and, beside a hundred typewriters, soggy biscuits lay in a hundred tepid saucers." Novelist Evelyn Waugh wrote those lines in *Scoop* back in '37; his satire of the tawdry tabloid ways of Fleet Street sure crosses national and temporal lines!

Mission madness

Back where it belongs: the deliriously festive *Carnaval San*

page 40 ▶

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On their own terms

Gay independent musicians

by Jason Serinus

Thirty-three years after the Stonewall Revolution, you'd think it wouldn't be a big deal for a performer to come out publicly. Yet if you scan the slowly growing list of lesbian/gay musicians, you discover that many "stars" wait until they make a secure name for themselves before disclosing their sexual status, and steadfastly eschew same-sex relationship lyrics.

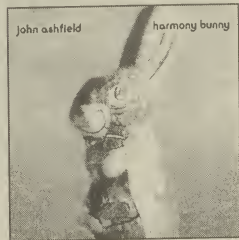
In contrast, LGBT independent musicians frequently make a point of celebrating their sexual and political identity. Because their music is often motivated by a fundamental need to proclaim their inner truth, their artistry has won them loyal followings. While some out musicians have broken into the big time (the late Steven Grossman, with the release of *Caravan Tonight* on Mercury Records in 1974, became the first openly gay artist to record on a major label, and jazz great Fred Hersch has been openly gay since 1984), most have stuck with independent production, building their careers from the grassroots.

Here are some compelling recent gay independent artists who deserve your attention.



Perfect Strangers, Steve Snelling: From the first track, "Daniel," which draws upon Rico, Colorado-based Snelling's work with violent, developmentally disabled adolescents, one senses a mind willing to probe the deep mysteries of life. "This Can't Be My World," which touches upon his failed suicide attempt, is quite daring, while "Perfect Strangers," a gay love song with expert accompaniment, is anything but glib. The man asks you to listen, singing in a sweet, slightly hoarse voice whose message is more im-

portant than the steady beat that sometimes underlies it. One senses from the power of his introductions, sung before the beat kicks in, and from the variety of the accompaniment and melody, that if Snelling chooses to free himself from the conventions of the pop idiom, he will do great things. Highly recommended. www.stevesnelling.com



Harmony Bunny, John Ashfield: There's a fine, old-fashioned rock quality to John Ashfield's 12-track "power pop" CD-ROM. Many of the songs are about love and relationships, written in a rhythmically varied style. Ashfield's day job as an underpaid Bay Area elementary school music teacher must not provide enough money for expensive studio time; he recorded much of the disc at home. The difference in sonics be-

'Perfect Strangers,' a gay love song with expert accompaniment, is anything but glib.

tween his lovely, multi-tracked vocals and studio-recorded accompaniment is marked. Though the sweetness of Ashfield's winning, wide-ranging tenor voice and the clarity of his lyrics come through, the dullness of the sonics and early-digital edge to the cymbals limit enjoyment of a disc that otherwise has a lot going for it. www.johnashfieldmusic.com

Too Little, Too Late, Drew Paralic: Paralic is a New York-based jazz composer and arranger who occasionally plays piano at Out-Music open mikes. Mostly, however, he entrusts his music to other top-flight musicians. Such is the case with this well-recorded CD-ROM, which offers a little under



40 minutes' worth of original instrumental compositions played by the excellent Mike Capobianco Ensembles. Paralic's music is upbeat, warm, and consistently engaging. There's a nice balance between contemporary, smooth jazz and improvisatory jazz licks.



Slow Burn Avenue, Andy Northrup: This is not your basic "Have a Nice Day" album. Edmonton, Alberta-based Andy Northrup departs from his usual work as a songwriter for musical theater to

devote his dragged-down baritone and rhythm guitar to his own folk-rock songs. He's joined by some excellent musicians and back-up vocalists, and the result is a compelling, fairly well-recorded disc, whose predominant tone is one of despair and burnout.

While Northrup's range is limited, and his intonation occasionally flat when singing low on the scale, his timbre and energy are appropriate for his frank subject matter. An album whose final cut, "Peace of Mind," is about the lack thereof seems a timely commentary on the frequently daunting struggle to experience harmony and contentment in an off-balance world. www.anorthrup.com ▼

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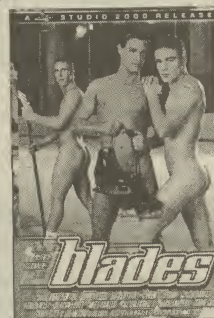
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OPERA

Women/Garden

Arts cover

Fine didn't write her first opera, *The Women in the Garden*, until the late '70s. Its world premiere was given in 1978 in San Francisco by the Port Costa Players.

She has said that "The women's movement [of the '60s] has been a liberating influence for me personally, to realize how men treat women, how women react to being treated by men." Fine had been married since 1935 to sculptor Benjamin Karp, with whom she had two children, so either he was a saint, or she was clueless for 30 years.

"It seemed perfectly natural to have an all-woman opera with one male character called The Tenor. It certainly has to do with women's feelings, the bonding of women, and the things they've had to endure." The libretto was culled by Fine from writings by four famous figures — Gertrude Stein, Isadora Duncan, Virginia Woolf and Emily Dickinson — though the women don't always stick to their own sayings, especially in a series of complex ensembles. Though Stein, Duncan and Woolf were contemporaries, there is no evidence that they ever met. In this mythical garden, they hear each other's complaints and heroic declarations. At the end, they achieve a sympathetic union, generously including The Tenor, who has sometimes played the villain in their lives.

Fine's feminism may have been fierce — her 1994 second opera, *Memoirs of Uliana Rooney*, presumably autobiographical, is about a feisty feminist composer in the 20th century — but she was not without compassion or humor, as *Women in the Garden* demonstrates. The San Francisco Opera Center performed the opera in 1982, with a knockout cast of young singers who all went on to major careers. In *Opera News*, I noted particularly "the tinkling orchestral score of delicate beauty." Indeed, bells, chimes and clocks play a major part in the score for nine players, including piano, strings, winds and various percussion instruments. Each woman is sharply characterized by her vocal line. For instance, Isadora, a high coloratura, seems to sing a tone row (though I haven't seen the score), while Gertrude Stein, a deep mezzo, mutters gnomic aphorisms ("Man is man was man will be gregarious and solitary") in a gruffly tonal chant.

Closet studies

Considering that Fine was 65 when she wrote her first opera, it is not surprising that the score is so accomplished and craftsmanly. It is spare in accompaniment, offering brief bursts of eloquence between the eight scenes that make up the approximately 60-minute work. A piano prodigy, Fine got a scholarship to the Chicago Musical College when she was just five. She regularly at-

chestral works. "Drama for Orchestra" was commissioned and played by Edo de Waart and the San Francisco Symphony in 1983 during the orchestra's "Vivian Fine Week." The piece was later nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

In *Women in the Garden*, a scene between Isadora and her lover, artist Gordon Craig, finds him whining: "Why do you want to go on stage and wave your arms? Why don't you stay home and sharpen my pencils?" All the dialogue in this opera is real, so you can't dismiss it as militant feminism. Nobody I spoke to

'It seemed perfectly natural to have an all-woman opera with one male character called The Tenor. It certainly has to do with women's feelings, bonding, and the things they've had to endure.'

tended the Chicago Symphony, and by age 15 had dropped out of high school to study music, literature and art full-time at home. She tells the story of her art-loving mother hiding her in a closet when the truant officer arrived.

At age 18, Fine moved to New York, where she studied with Roger Sessions and was encouraged by Henry Cowell, Aaron Copland, George Szell and others. Making her living as a rehearsal pianist for dance companies (like our Lou Harrison), Fine was soon composing modern dance scores for Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Hanya Holm, Martha Graham and Jose Limon. She was eventually recipient of Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundation grants, as well as a personal NEA grant for *Women in the Garden*.

Like Ustvolskaya, Fine may be better known as a pedagogue. She taught at New York University, Juilliard, and finally, Bennington College in Vermont (1964-1987), where her theories were as unorthodox as they were effective. "It is not possible to teach composition, I think. You simply make them aware of the available materials, and then anybody can compose."

Though perhaps not as intensely or successfully as Vivian Fine, whose clearly driven work includes songs, chamber music and piano solos, dance scores, two operas and a number of large or-

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Berkeley Opera's *Women in the Garden*, at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley, May 23-24, 8 p.m.; May 25, 2 p.m. Tickets (\$30 general, \$25 seniors, \$15 youth and handicapped, \$10 student rush): (925) 798-1300. Info: (510) 841-1903 or www.berkeleyopera.com.

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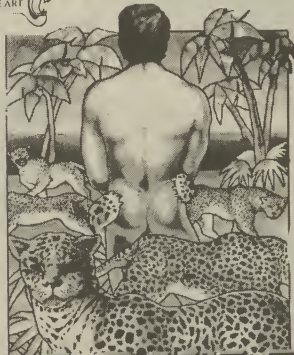
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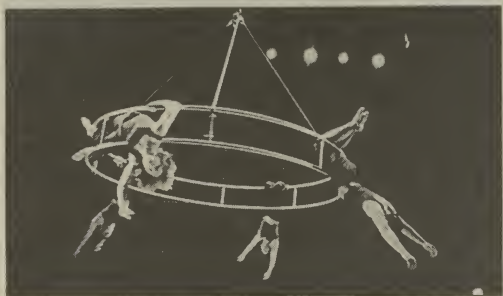
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OUT&ABOUT



Jo Kreiter's Flyaway Productions soar at Yerba Buena. See Wednesday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Marga Gomez and Carmelita Tropicana.

Here comes NQAF!

The opening night gala for National Queer Arts Festival 2002 (NQAF) takes place on Saturday, June 1, barely a week away, when once again the city comes alive with a spectacular display of queer talent. The buzz this year is hotter than it's ever been, due in large part to the new SF LGBT Community Center which provides both a base of operations for the organizers, the Harvey Milk Institute and the Queer Cultural Center, and a snazzy venue for showcasing up-and-coming stars.

The Center is, however, only one of several locations where NQAF events will be happening through the 4th of July. The venues are spread out in a great triangle of the Mission, Haight, and SoMa, with a bit of Tenderloin thrown in. You'll find performances and exhibitions at the African American Art and Culture Complex (762 Fulton St. at Webster); Brava (2789 24th St. at York); Dance Mission theater (3316 24th St. at Mission); Galeria de la Raza (2857 24th St. at Bryant); Jon Sims Center for the Arts (1519 Mission St. at 11th St.); Lorraine Hansberry Theater (620 Sutter St. at Mason); Mission Cultural Center (2868 Mission St. at 24th St.); ODC Theater (3153 17th St. at 24th St.); SomArts (934 Brannan St. at 8th St.); Yerba Buena Center (701 Mission St. at 3rd St.) and the GLBT Historical Society (973 Market St.).

At the free (!) opening night gala on June 1, dozens of artists will preview their works in the upcoming festival, so this is your chance to pick and choose among them, not to mention rub elbows, shoulders, and whatever else sticks out in the crowd. One great side benefit of The Center is its endless possibilities for cruising and crowd watching. Expect the place to be packed with a gorgeous array of art fags, theater queens, dance divas, semi-respectable queers and other living wonders.

On the entertainment line-up are Alison Wright, C.C. Carter, Chrystos, Deep Dickollective, DJ Jamez, DJ Puss Puss, Gigi Oltavaro-Hormillosa, Jaime Cortez, Keith Hennessy & Circo Zero, Khan Wong, Laurie Toby Edison, Marci Blackman, Marcus Rene Van, Marvin K. White and members of B/GLAM, Maureen Brownsey, Pippi Lovestocking, Sini Anderson, Veronica Combs, and cast members of Liquid Fire 2002. There's gonna be a whole lotta cruisin' goin' on.

The big opening show for the festival features the city's favorite Mission dweller, Marga Gomez, renowned far and wide for her funny bone, and Carmelita Tropicana, the international performance-artist sensation. They'll be dripping with suspense in "Single Wet Female," opening at SomArts on Friday, June 7 at 8pm. Tickets are \$20. ▼

For NQAF details and tickets, visit the web at www.queerculturalcenter.org



Kim English brings her deep dance groove to Great America. See Friday.

Fri 24

Paramount's Great America

Gus presents "Gay and Lesbian Night at Paramount's Great America." Kick off a Colossus Memorial Day Weekend with comedian Margaret Cho live on stage, along with Chris Beckman from MTV's "The Real World." Chicago. On the Pavilion Stage: DJ Frank Abraham (Mass, LA) and Kim English live. On the Club Papi Latin Stage: DJs Mike and Chili D, plus Funky Green Dogs live, performing tracks from their new album "Funky California." On the Wild 94.9 Stage: DJs St. John (House Nation/Wild 94.9) and Blackstone (Club Faith), plus Deep Dickollective live. 6pm-3am. Rides open til midnight. Dance till 3am. All ages. Not open to general public. Paramount's Great America and Gus Presents will make a contribution for each ticket sold to Gay-Straight Alliance network, working to empower youth activists fighting homophobia in schools. A portion of proceeds will benefit the Latin Stage at SF Gay Pride. \$45 adv.; \$55 door; \$135 4-Party Pass (\$10 savings; includes Colossus, Metropolis, and Mass; no waiting in line; VIP chill room at all 4 parties; shuttle to afterhours). Tix: All American Boy; Body; Gold's Gym Castro; Body Body; Rolo Castro; ticketweb.com. Info: www.guspresents.com

Theatre Rhinoceros

"Knuckles and Crunch," a new play written by Doug Holclaw, directed by Adele Prandini, tells the story of the special friendship between two drifters who find work in a gay bar in Columbus, Ohio in 1978. The play features musical numbers by Mr. Ruby Rims and Ms. Loretta Fox - characters based on real-life drag performers from the 1970's. \$15 - \$24. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. Eves; 3pm Sun. Matinees (May 26 & June 3). 2926 16th St. (Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix: 861-5079.

Eureka Theatre

Opening night: 42nd Street Moon presents "Pipe Dream," Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical interpretation of the John Steinbeck novel *Sweet Thursday*. Starring Meg Mackay as Fauna, the good-hearted brothel madam, with Marci Henderson as Suzy, the runaway Fauna befriends, and Jackson Davis as Doc, a shy marine biologist. Eventually Suzy finds a job at a burger joint, sets up house inside an abandoned cannery pipe, and at last finds love. Directed by Greg MacKellan with music direction by Brandon Adams and choreography by Jayne Zaban. \$27 Fri., Sat. & Sun.; \$25 Thu.; \$20 seniors/students. 8pm

Thu. & Fri.; 6pm Sat.; 3pm Sun. 215 Jackson St. (btwn Battery & Front). Tix/info: 255-8207; www.42ndSt-Moon.org

Sat 25

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Morgan Territory Volvon Trail Hike. Enjoy wildflower displays, oak woodland and grassy slopes. Meet 9:30am at the foot of the Rockridge BART station escalator. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Harvey Milk Plaza

Gay Shame presents the "First Annual Gay Shame Awards," a radical queer extravaganza. Rewards will be presented to "the most hypocritical gays for their service to the 'Community,'" say the organizers, who insist "it's time to expose the evil-doers who use the sham of gay 'pride' as a cover-up for their greed and misdeeds." 5pm. Castro and Market. Info: 540-2947; www.gayshamesf.org

SF LGBT Community Center

"A Tease of Pride," a benefit for The Center. Dance foreplay to Pride Month, with performance art, dancing, visuals, DJs and more. Hosted by comedienne Julia Jackson. Featuring Other Brothers, a collaboration of artists opening hearts and erasing gender stereotypes. DJs Clay and Puss puss. \$5-\$25 sliding (Center members free). 6pm-1am. All ages. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.sfcenter.org

Universe @ Club Townsend

Cyndi Lauper, the dance diva of the 1980s and still going strong in her 40s, brings her post-Disco Inferno dance sounds to the hot n' hunky guys of Universe, with DJ sounds by Jamie J and Jackie Christie. \$20 (no passes). 9:30pm-7am. 177 Townsend St. Info: 974-1156; www.clubtownsend.com

Queer Jitterbugs @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs present "Shim Sham Lesson and Uniform Costume Contest!" The night starts at 6:30pm with Basic East Coast Swing taught by Burnie and Citabria; at 7:30pm it's Shim Sham lesson time (it's the swing line dance). At 10:30pm enter the Uniform Costume Contest. Prizes for uniforms that are either most campy, vintage, authentic or kinky. Dancing with DJs Dane, Inka and Christopher Friday from 9pm to midnight. Comfortable shoes recommended. All ages. No partner or experience needed. \$10 for both lessons and party (volunteers get in free). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

Live Oak Park, North Berkeley

"19th Annual Himalayan Fair," a two-day celebration of the great mountain cultures of Tibet, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Ladakh, Mustang, Pakistan and Bhutan. Produced by Katherine Kunhiraman of the Kalanjali Dance Company. Featuring a range of international groups showcasing traditional music, dance and costumes. Crafts and food galore. \$7 donation. 10am-7pm Sat.; also 10am-5:30pm Sun., May 26. Shattuck & Berryman, North Berkeley. Info: 510-869-3995; www.himalayan-fair.net

Sun 26

Glaskat

pyrrone presents "Rising," a sacred morning dance ritual and benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, with DJ Bud Chism spinning progressive house and progressive trance. With chill space, massage tables, and a flagging stage with black lights. \$25 advance;

Meg Mackay and Marci Henderson play in 42nd Street Moon's *Pipe Dream* at Eureka Theatre. See Friday.



Cyndi Lauper ignites the dance energy at Universe. See Saturday.

\$35 door (at least \$5 of every ticket goes to AEF). 5am-noon. 520 4th St. (site of the former Trocadero). Tix: The Barking Frog, Body Body Wear, from hosts, or at www.pytronepresents.com

Powerhouse

"SuperTRASH," a special holiday edition of the weekly retro-homo club with DJ Bus Station John. Benefits Mikes on Bikes, the queer boy's bicycle contingent in the Pride Parade. Wet tighty-whites contest at midnight (win \$100!). Featuring vintage videos and early 1980s gay-bar classics & curios. \$3 cover. 9pm-2am. 1347 Folsom (btwn 9th & 10th). Info: 552-8689.

King St. Garage

Sundance Saloon presents "Spring Round-Up," featuring country-western vocalist Matt Alber performing live on stage as a benefit for The Sundance Assn. for Country-Western Dancing. C/W dance lessons 6-7:30pm; open C/W dancing 7:30-11pm, \$8. 174. King St. (near 3rd St.). Info: 699-5764; sundancesaloon.org

26 Mix

"Wet Dream Lesbuesque Review" Women dancing for women and women only. Burlesque and table dancing action to get your panties in a bunch and your strap on in a sling. \$10-15. Sliding. 7pm-1am, 3024 Mission St. (at 26th and Cesar Chavez (formerly Army) @ Mission. Info: 826-7378; www.26mix.com

1015 Folsom

"Spundae Memorial Day" featuring the sounds of DJs Erick Morillo, Lee Burridge, Cass, Rennie Pilgrem, Jerry Bonham, Ellen Ferrato, Taj, Gianni, Jonathan Ojeda, An.ten.nae, Anon and Dov. This promises to be one of the great parties of Memorial Day. Spundae has been kicking butt in the dance scene, with some of the hottest vibes ever. 10pm-6am. 1015 Folsom St. (at 6th St.). Info: spundae.com

The Black Box, Oakland

Experience an evening of Kirtan chanting with world-class musician and singer Russell Paul from Chennai, South India. Experience the Black Box as a Sacred Temple of Light and Sound, with visuals and lighting by the Sacred Technology Project. The venue is a community art gallery and performance cafe in a beautiful historic building in downtown Oakland. It is dedicated to the spirit of experimentation, multicultural collaboration and community building through the celebration of life, art and cosmos. \$12 in advance \$15 at the door. 7pm (doors open 6:30pm) 1928 Telegraph Ave. (behind Sears Emporium near the Paramount Theatre on Broadway. Info: 510-451-1932

Amnesia

Club KY, a bi-monthly indie/punk/queer-core music club with DJs Spike, Mike & Jacob spinning US/UK indie, noise-pop, electronic and pUnk rock sounds on vinyl, CD and mp3. Their motto: "KY supports universal health care, the protection of our civil liberties, a living wage, immigrant rights, social justice, freedom and the fostering of unity. We oppose military intervention, the war, racism, homophobia, sexism, ageism, gentrification and police brutality."

ity." No cover. 10 pm-2am. 853 Valencia at 20th St. 21+ w/ID. Info: www.spike00.com/clubky

The Endup

"Devotion" celebrates Memorial Day weekend with two of Europe's greatest House DJs, Ricky Morrison (M&S, London) and Luis Radio (Equal Records, Rome) with Franky Boissy and Ruben Mancias. \$15 cover. Party doesn't stop till 8pm next day! 401 6th St. at Harrison. Info: 778-8845; www.theendup.com.

Club Townsend

"Pleasuredome" presents a night of dancing with DJ Jeff Johnson at the turntables all night long, 9pm-3:30am. \$8. 21+ w/ID. 177 Townsend St.

Mon 27

Cafe Du Nord

Eric Shea's Monday Night Hoot, SF's only anti-open mic night. Influenced by the New York City village folk scene of yore as well as Michael Nesmith's Hoot nights that took place in yesteryear's Los Angeles. An intimate gathering of musicians and music enthusiasts of all descriptions. Revolving casts of musical characters bring their songs and talent to the stage. Shea books the cream of the crop from the Bay Area's most promising bands, singer/songwriters, and touring guests. "We don't just book folk acts," says Shea. "We're into mixing the music up and surprising our audience with cross pollination and cameos from traveling musicians." \$5. 9pm. 21+ w/ID. 2170 Market St. Info: 861-5016; www.cafedunord.com

Tue 28

The Stud

Heklina and Trannyshack present "The 3rd Annual Trannyshack Gong Show, hosted by Leigh Crow as Chuck Barris, with judges Johnny Kat as Tiny Tim, Heklina as Brett Sommers, and Laurie Bushman as Fannie Flagg. \$6. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Studio @ Rhino

Theatre Rhinoceros presents a reading of a new play, "The Critic," by Erin Blackwell, directed by P.A. Cooley, featuring Ken Ruta, Laurie Bushman, P.A. Cooley, Mark Routhier and Kathryn Wood. Free. 8pm. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 861-5079.

BACW @ The Center

BACW kicks off a monthly speaker series, "Uncommon Voices" to address issues and topics of interest to Bay Area lesbians. The speaker for the kickoff event is NCLR executive director Kate Kendall who will be interviewed by well-known Bay Area lesbian lawyer Linda Scaprotti, a current member of the NCLR Board of Directors and a long-time member of BACW. \$15 (\$10 BACW and NCLR members) 7pm Reception; 8pm on-stage conversation. Ceremonial Room SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5630; www.bacw.org

Wed 29

The Black Box, Oakland

"Squeeze: From Our Mouths to Yours," A Benefit for Nectar, the women's stage at SF Pride 2002. A powerful, gripping evening of performance poetry featuring Eliza Banales, Solidad Decosta, Tina D'elia, Leah Gardner, Emily Kagan, Karen Dereise Ladsen, Clare Lewis, Sara Moore, Shailja Patel, and Tyger Walsh. Hosted by Marcus Rene Van, with DJ Black on the turntables. \$7-\$20. 7:30pm. 1928 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland (btwn 19th and 20th streets). Info: 510.451.1932; www.black-boxoakland.com

El Rio

Veronica Lipgloss and the Evil Eyes headline with their "trashy new wave blues" as Ladyfest Bay Area presents a night of rock bands and film shorts. Also featuring "bluesy glam rock" Leper Sex Killers, "heavy grrrl rock" Miss Conduct, and acoustic folk singer-songwriter Laurie Koh. Film shorts include "Impact Zone" by Kadet Kuhne and Sophie Constantinou, and "Pussy Buffet" by Kadet Kuhne and Ursula Rodriguez. All proceeds benefit Ladyfest Bay Area, a five-day non-profit festival featuring music, film and video, visual art, performance art, and workshops made by women and transfolk. It will be held July 24 through 28 in San Francisco's Mission District and is open to people of all genders. \$7-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 21+ w/ID. a3158 Mission St. Info: www.ladyfestbayarea.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Jo Kreiter's Flyaway Productions performs "Maybe Grief is a Good Bird Flying Low," revealing the height, elegance, and architectural beauty of the YBCA Forum. Kreiter's dancers perform dazzling athletic feats of graceful aerial artistry, utilizing far more than just the floor for their movements. The set, designed by Lawrence LaBianca expressly for the Forum space, will include eight vertical poles, an elevated launch pad, and a suspended steel "merry-go-round" that revolves, tilts, and swings with the dancers' movements. The piece asks urgent questions about female grief as a residue of male-dominated choices on a world scale. \$20.

Thu 30

ODC Theater

Stephanie Schaaf and Sue Roginski present "DUST and other stories," featuring two dance premieres and two older collaborations. Roginski's "One or Two," a quartet for two couples, looks at the life of two separate relationships simultaneously. A contemporary attraction between two men is juxtaposed with the very different relationship available to two women in the 1940s. With dance imagery by photographer Elizabeth Gorelik and music by local band Corner Tour. With dancers David Baisley, Manuelito Biag, Christy Funsch, Eric Küpers, Aimee Lam, Alexis Mian, Deborah Miller, and Nol Simonse. \$17 (\$15 advance). 8pm. 3153 Seventeenth St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org

Books Inc., Castro

Reading and booksigning with Kevin Bentley, author of *Wild Animals I Have Known: Polk Street Diaries and After* (Green Candy Press). Bentley is an editor at Council Oak Books which just published Brian Bouldrey's *Monster*. He is also author of *Sailor: Vintage Photos of a Masculine Icon*. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. (btwn Noe & Sanchez). Info: 864-6777; www.booksinc.net

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Send your calendar event listings to:

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Dead man talking

by Jim Nawrocki

Last Night by Brendan Lemon;
Allyn Publications, \$24.95

There's a kind of double meaning at work in the title of Brendan Lemon's novel *Last Night*. Constructed as a condemned prisoner's final testament on the eve of his execution, it's a record of his thoughts on his "last night." But it's also a sweeping meditation on a particular love and courtship, as if one lover were recalling the time he spent with his beloved, and trying to relive the romantic interlude in all of its detail.

The narrator, John Webster, has plenty to think about. The novel (or rather, the letter that it

contains) is set in the mid-to-late '80s, and Webster is an idealistic though somewhat world-weary man still recovering from the recent AIDS-related death of his lover, Josh. As he sits in his prison cell, he recalls his life in New York City, his circle of friends, and the events that led him to meet and fall in love with the young man to whom the letter is addressed, Eduardo Garcia. At 18, Garcia is indeed young. Webster is much older, not just chronologically, but also in terms of the life lessons he's accrued. At one point Webster observes that he cannot truly connect with someone unless their life has been tested and marked by the trauma of loss, and this becomes an important factor in his measure of those he meets.

Eduardo, though young, seems

to pass this test and others. His mother is an important official in Cuba's Castro government, and Eduardo benefits from the worldly trappings that come with her diplomatic position. He is wise for his age, but also charmingly down to earth.

But perhaps the most powerful connection between the two is lust. "I keep trying to recreate what exactly you gave me," Webster writes, "and I can come up with no better answer than this: your beauty." It's the power of Eduardo's beauty that sends Webster chasing after him, to Cuba. Ostensibly Webster goes to the island with a group of Leftists sympathetic to the revolution, and eager to help it along by laboring in the sugar-cane fields. But Webster soon runs off to Havana in search of his love. Reunited, they become involved in events that lead to the accidental death of one of Eduardo's acquaintances. As a result of this death, the two become fugitives, then captives. In the hands of the Cuban authorities, their homosexuality is as much a crime as their part in the killing, and the strain of their incarceration eventually transforms their relationship. Webster's prison-cell reflections, a kind of "dark night of the soul," lead him to re-examine his life and question not only the nature of his relationship with Eduardo, but the nature of his very self.

All of this has the makings of a good tale, and Lemon must be admired for employing an unconventional narrative technique.



Unfortunately, his prose does not always rise to the challenge. Lemon is simply trying too hard. Some of his literary and popular

culture allusions seem strained. At other times, the prose borders on sentimentality. When Webster is being escorted out of his cellblock for what looks like the last time, his fellow jailbirds serenade his departure with a rendition of "So Long, Farewell" from *The Sound of Music*. Meant to be poignant, the scene comes off as rather corny.

But for a man who has never visited Cuba, as Lemon admits in an afterword, he renders Webster's visit there with convincing detail. *Last Night* is an intriguing story of love and self-discovery, diminished by somewhat uneven writing. ▼

Out There

◀ page 35

Francisco celebration returns to the Mission District this year, Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25. The parade on Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. at 24th & Bryant Sts., features sultry Bay Area samba talent, traditional Mexican dance, contingents from Cuba, the Caribbean and Central America, and quite a lot of Eye Candy. Examples A and B: Carnival SF 2002 **Queen** and **King Maisa Duke** and **Norberto Martinez**, shown to good advantage in the accompanying photo. A program of the Mission Neighborhood Centers, the weekend community party is the largest multi-ethnic festival in California. Surf on over to www.carnavalsf.com. Now, that's what Out There calls cultural outreach. ▼



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FILM

Rupert Everett

◀ Arts cover

Rupert's so funny and witty and smart, and... he wouldn't introduce me to Madonna."

Colin Firth, whom we know so well from *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Pride and Prejudice*, had the same complaint about Everett. "Madonna?" he asked. "No. No. Rupert keeps me away from all that stuff.

'People say that Oscar Wilde was fascinating to listen to, but he was a great snob.'

He's a lot easier to get along with now than he used to be, you know."

Colin should know, having worked with Everett in *Another Country*. "In a lot of ways, though, Rupert hasn't changed in the slightest," Colin said. "He was outrageous then. He's fairly outrageous now. He's very funny. Thankfully, I tend not to be on the wrong end of his humor as much now as I was then. I was terribly earnest, to coin a phrase, in those days. His description of me is somewhere along the line of 'a ghastly, red-brick, guitar-playing Communist who's ready to give up his first 500 pounds to charity instead of getting rich.' Rupert found that objectionable."

Whine and roses

Finally, Rupert, wearing two snug T-shirts, one over the other, which reveal his well-developed pecs and throbbing biceps, sat down. When asked about those early days with Colin, he replied, "I've calmed down. As for Colin, he was very dull in those days. He'll admit this to you himself. He was strumming on his guitar all the time. He was a Communist. He was going to give his first million dollars to charity if he ever earned it. I'd like to know what happened to that million, by the way. Nowadays, he's like Eeyore in *Winnie the Pooh*. Colin's really good at whining. You can wind him up and make him complain about anything."

Moving on to Wilde, does the openly-gay Everett identify with the gay icon? "No, not at all," he replied. "I love Oscar Wilde. I love him because I think his life is a kind of awful inspiration in a way. I don't think I would have liked him very much. Not in his first incarnation. I see him as kind of flabby, getting too close to people, talking too close to people, with his huge, sweaty fingers, pouring with sweat. A real show-off. People say that he was fascinating to listen to, but he was a great snob."

"You know," he continued, "Oscar really aspired to the upper classes, but at the same time he kind of flaunted this life that he knew as unacceptable. So he had a kind of a Christ obsession of some sort. He really drove towards the cliff's edge. Like a movie star in a way, Oscar was punch drunk on his success."

"People thought he was so brilliant that he kind of felt that he was above the law," Rupert smiled. "And when he took Lord Queensbury to court, only for saying something that was true about him, that's even crazier than Naomi Campbell taking her assistant to court. It's just too vain and too stupid. And everyone gave him an out. Everyone tried to warn him. The government, too. Nobody wanted Oscar to be put in prison. They all gave him these

possibilities to leave the country. He just didn't do it."

Taking a sip of water, Prof. Rupert continued his lecture. "Oscar just threw himself out into that tragedy. And then the prison years. I do want to play him during his last two years of life when I'm older. It's a great story. The film would be called *De Profundis*. It would start with Wilde coming out of prison. He was still famous. In Paris, people used to spit on

him. They'd leave tables in restaurants if he came in. He had a really horrible life those last two years, and a hideous death. A really painful, horrible death."

Seeing he was finished, we thought it was time to ask, "If Colin's Eeyore, who would you be in *Winnie the Pooh*?"

"I'd be Roo. Definitely Roo." ▼

The Importance of Being Earnest opens Friday in SF. Rated PG for "mild sensuality."



Rupert Everett, Judi Dench and Reese Witherspoon in Oliver Parker's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

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Valley of the Kings

Huge leather crowds expected for IML

by Mister Marcus

Even as you read this, thousands of leather men and women are either already in Chicago or en route, all to savor the delectable flavor of the world's biggest leather competition weekend.

As of May 15, the deadline for International Mister Leather contestants to register, the IML website lists 67 contestants in the competition. It will be my pleasure once again to join judges Jerry Acosta, Pat Baille, Herve' Bernard (Paris), Patti Brown, Chris Holmgren (Toronto), Steve Lenius, Wayne Nesbitt and outgoing IML 2001 Stefan Mueller. We're all geared up to sit through 16 hours of interviews at the Hyatt Chicago.

Scores of parties are scheduled throughout the weekend and besides all that, it will be an exercise in agility to squeeze into all the local bars, restaurants and clubs.

IML Den Daddy Walter Klingler and Contest Producer Bill Stadt have their crews on 24 hour alert, and R.J. Chaffin and Bob Graves will administer to more than 150 leather/latex/video vendors and what-have-you in the humongous leather mart right on the premises. If you can't find that "special" kink/fetish item here, it just does not exist.

On Sunday afternoon after all the preliminary hoop-la is over, the big show at the Congress Theatre begins, and by 10 or 11 p.m. the new IML 2002 will be known.

If you're not going to Chicago, be sure to tune into my column next week, when I'll be back with exclusive results and inside tidbits.

Oh, and just so you know, big plans are in the works for a monumental celebration next year when IML turns 25! You'll love it!

Meanwhile...

All around the country, IML Send-Off parties were held last week and over the weekend for the "favorite sons" in each city. Locally in San Francisco, there were at least three: Friday at Marlena's for Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Michael Schaeffer; Saturday at the Power-



Good luck to the pride of San Francisco competing next weekend in Chicago for the IML 2002 title: From left: Peter Jackson, Mr. SF Leather Michael Schaeffer, Scott Brogan and Dan Alexander.

house for Mr. SF Leather Peter Jackson; and Sunday at Daddy's for all four San Francisco Leather Men who will be competing at IML. So far, SF will have the biggest representation in the competition. It is worthy to note also, that for the first time ever, Mr. SF Leather Peter Jackson managed to have the blessing and a photo opportunity with none other than Hizzoner Da Mayor. Yep, Willie in full leather in the Mayor's Office. Another first!

Bare Chest Calendar finale

It was a huge turnout last Thursday, May 16 when all twelve bare chest calendar winners for the 2003 edition showed up at the Powerhouse to vie for the cover spot. Judges Art Arcienega, Laura Federico, Glennon Sutter, James S. Geras, and Peter Jackson were thrust into unbelievable turmoil in deciding whom to choose. All of the contenders were above par for the position, and each gave a brief but cogent speech when asked why he thought he would be the best choice. It was no "I'm better than he is" thing.

The 2003 calendar men all seem to be in sync as they seriously tackle the job cut out for them: namely, selling the calendar and

making big bucks for AEF and PRC. The consensus is that they will succeed.

When all the votes were counted, Ken Ferraris (Mr. February 2003) prevailed. What a hunk! And Troy Anicete (Mr. May 2003) will grace the back cover.

Be sure to be the first on your block to have one when the calendar goes on sale at the Dore Alley Fair!!

Fits & firsts

It seems all the "regulars" at the DC Eagle are having a hissy fit over one of their favorite long-time bartenders, Michael Evans (almost 30 years!) being "let go" due to "budgetary concerns"! The DC Eagle bar owner appears to have exhausted all his ingenuity to drive the crowds away and this one is really pushing it. Next, clubs will be removing their "colors" and that is a very bad sign! Tsk Tsk.

"Only the GOOD die young" is something we've all heard for years. The latest example of life longevity was on display at an elegant dinner party in Washington, D.C. last Friday night, May 10 as the Wicked Witch of the East (Vern Stewart) celebrated his 60th year on this earth. The only flaw to the whole thing was that Tiffany's was not able to produce a

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, May 22-27

24th Annual International Mr. Leather weekend in Chicago. Parties galore, and naming of IML 2002. I'll be there judging so you'll be the first to know the results!

Pegasus MOC biker's ride to Portola Museum. Meet at 0900 on Saturday in front of Castro Theater. Depart at 0930. \$125.

Sunday, May 26

Phoenix Uniform Club beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800, \$8 food, boot contest and \$25 tickets to the Lea/Uniform Ball in June.

May 31-June 2

Mr. and Ms. Baltimore Eagle Leather contest with weekend long events. Info: msandin@msn.com.

Saturday, June 1

Retrospective photo show of the magnificent work of Victor Arimondi, 1700-2200 opens today at Atelier Gallery (2354 Market St in the Penthouse - anywhere else for Victor wouldn't do!). A leather friendly man, Victor's work is classic. Don't miss this one!

Sunday, June 2

Mama's Birthday party @ Daddy's. No details at my deadline.

Saturday, June 8

Leather Community Town Meeting at the LGBT Center at 1500 to discuss strategy/plans for leather contingent in Pride Parade.

Russian River Sir/Boy Contest for Northern California. No details at my deadline. Hello? Jake? Are you there?

Tuesday, June 11

Bondage Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. If not, call 777-DRY.

Wednesday, June 12

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison. Walk in, float out! Let there be spray! Call 777-HEAD if your life is dull and DRY.

Weekend, June 12-17

Southeast Leather Fest in Atlanta, Georgia and also FLUW (Florida Leather Unity Weekend). Both with contests, workshops, play parties and more leather than you could imagine!

PORN

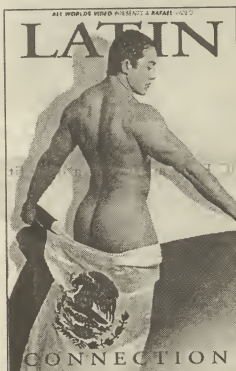
Heavily hung Hispanics

Latin studs in all their glory: 3 videos

by John F. Karr

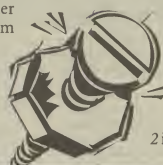
In the all-Latin *The Latin Connection*, two porn company warehousemen swap horny stories until, four flashbacks later, they're turned on enough to make it with each other. It's a formulaic setup which gets rather formulaic treatment from director Rafael. I found his recent debut, *Male.com*, kind of sloppy. This one's a little better, although its even numbered scenes are complete non-starters.

The heavily hung dudes in #2 don't know what to do, and abort their attempt at sex for a desultory j.o. In #4, a guy attacks a punching bag that's only a foot or two away from a urinal and a shower. This must be the world's coziest gym; I guess that keeps its rates low. Architectural novelties aside, the scene goes nowhere. The guy punches the bag in the nude for a minute, and then jerks off in the shower for far too long.



Separating these scenes are three fairly good ones, with interesting performers, Americanized Los Angelinos who are, for the most part, given their due. The two storytelling stars go at it in the finale with zest. Michael Gomez, a foxy guy with shaved crotch and both cock and nipple rings, is ultimately upended so that he can chew his own foreskin while Tony Lopez plunges a dildo into his ass.

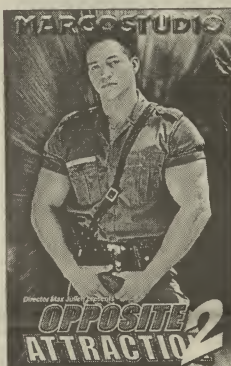
Videography is good, lighting is ample, and editing acceptable, but the music is the ersatz stuff you get on a cruise ship that's only going to Tijuana. Rafael, who directed, videographed and edited the movie, is also credited with its Concept. If you don't remember it, check out the first sentence. Very conceptual. www.all-worldsvideo.com; (800) 537-8024



Brazil nuts

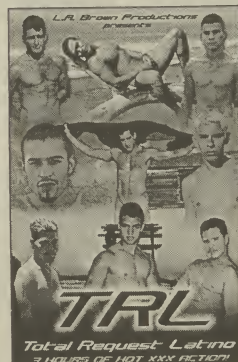
Opposite Attraction 2 is an import with an all-Brazilian cast, and the brand of Portuguese they speak is sexy to hear.

There are subtitles, but you hardly need them. The theme is in the title: in six scenes, for an hour and three quarters, hairy is paired with



smooth, darker with light, urbanized wealthy gay with sex-for-cash straight trade. There's even a convict and his guard. Too bad the box cover doesn't have a picture of the bewitching angel I fell in love with, rosy-cheeked Gabriel Trepador. His piercing eyes, lush lashes and silken hair glistening like jet make him the centerpiece of the movie's finale, where he's fucked by two roughhewn leatherboys while watched by a masturbating muscle hunk voyeur. The cast, featuring lots of foreskin and chest hair, is generally husky and huskily endowed, especially a muscle-hump duo straight out of a Kris Bjorn movie. There's a special solo appearance by Michael

Dias, who was discharged from the state police force for posing nude in a Brazilian gay magazine. He's truly glamorous, and not a bad masturbator, either. Still, the movie clicks only sporadically, since its amiably indulgent pacing (very Latin, that) for the most part doesn't heat the warm up to hot. Lighting fine, videography and editing okay, music erratic. Great guys, though. www.marcostudio.com; (800) 555-6301



Best Latin handful

L.A. Brown productions isn't such a great company. But their *TRL: Total Request Latino* is a three-hour anthology of the best scenes from a handful of their movies, sort of a greatest hits collection. I really enjoyed it for a while, until the screen went blue. A defective copy. Still, I liked what I saw: Max Grand and Mike Lamas, rough Nick Rains, the appropriately named Babyface, the urban warrior Juanico, and the bleach-blond babe Carlos Casino. *TRL* starts off gritty urban, very East LA barrio, with sex club habitués and greasy auto mechanics. Although the sex sounds on the soundtrack sometimes seem dubbed, and the reproduction of the image is coarse, the sex is well-observed and unrushed. Too bad I missed the new, rural exterior scenes, filmed (the publicity says) in the breathtaking ruins near the beach of Tecoman, with "three new Mexican heartthrobs." Still, the part of *TRL* I did see was the most continuously effective of this week's crop of Latin-cast porn; wish I'd seen the rest. www.IMD-video.com; (800) 733-3393 ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

motorized platinum broom!

The leather community has gotten used to having *The Leather Journal* available over the years, which started out as a glossy magazine, and then there was *Drummer*, but we won't go there! Then there was *International Leather* by the defunct Brush Creek Media (and an editor no one ever saw at leather events).

Now comes *The Leather Scene*, a glossy, full-color leather-oriented publication out of Fort Lauderdale, due to hit the streets any day now. I am happy to join noted leather scribes Guy Baldwin, Robert Davolt and others as contributors. *The Leather Scene* is available free at your favorite leather watering hole.

See you all next week with photos and the "dish" about IML 2002. Have a great Memorial Day weekend! ▼



Hizzoner da Mayor Willie Brown appeared in full leather drag to dispense his blessing and good luck to Mr. SF Leather 2002 Peter Jackson last week. Peter will compete for the IML 2002 title in Chicago this coming weekend.

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PARTING GLANCES

Fall On Your Knees
That is what you were reading on f/t 815 on 4/18. Stuck in Phoenix we shared row 8. Wish I'd asked you out for a drink- 2nd chance? ☎ 71750

Flying Pig Hood Orna
101 near San Jose, you gray hair & beard. Daddy type. I would like to have dinner with you. Please call. ☎ 71781

Fri 5/3 35 Eureka 11PM
U-short dark hair, red jacket- stunning. Me- older, gr suede jacket, s/p hair would love to know who you are. Please call. ☎ 71765

4/28 El Rio
You: Incredibly handsome LM, black shirt, gray pants, standing at left of dance floor. Me: WM, lt br/gr, off-white sweater, jeans; unable to take my eyes off you. Hoping to see your beautiful smile again over dinner? drinks? coffee? ☎ 71778

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Bart Friday May 3rd Approx 5:30PM
Both of us with a friend. Friend and I sitting. Your friend walked to back of train. You stood alone then exited Van Ness. I should have followed. Please call. ☎ 71764

Pumping Gas
4/25- Arco Station @ 14th & Mission. About 4pm. You have a great smile- would love to say more than just "hi" & "don't work too hard". Call- ☎ 71751

Castro Cala 4/29 PM Check-Out
You, gym bag & lots of eggs. Me, dry-cleaning & fewer eggs. We talked "Dry-Cleaners". Sorry I didn't get your name. Call me if you're single! ☎ 71766

"Van Ness" 4/28 7 PM
California & Van Ness- You: Brown sweater, khakis, glasses, grey hair. Me: brown hair, black fleece vest. We looked back several times. Want to meet? ☎ 71767

Latin Big Arms, Bike 5-12-02 1:30pm
Looking for Latin man who was riding a bike with s/p hair and huge arms on Mothers Day. Sunday 1:30pm on tenth and Mission. Me bid gray vest, red shirt holding pink paper. ☎ 71782

SFO U: Green P/Up Me: Red Honda
Thursday May 9th. Hey handsome, we were both heading 101 south, got off at SFO. You took inside lane. I took outside. Wanted to give you my #. Bill ☎ 71783

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

In Our Dreams We've Seen Each Other
White hair, dark eyes, full lips, bodies not neglected: passionate, playful, curious, open, full of desire. Let's be two GM making our desire real- now. Call... ☎ 71752

"Football-Built"
Blk, 50, 5'10", 220, ch. 50", aggressive, strong, loving, kissable, suckable, safe, long hair, strong legs, swollen nipples, strong buns, 10"+ 7 1/2" round, serious. No fats or fems. ☎ 71753

WM Seeking Relationship W/One
Man, masculine top; me 25, 147lbs, 5'11", smooth, tight hairy, stache/goatee, lt. beard, and construction A plus+. ☎ 71754

Seek GWM Bring-U-Out/Pump-Up-Guy
GWM 6' bl/ld (handsome "bite") fm, smooth, adoring, sweet, art, heart seeks: emerging masc, musc N/S fit, chest hair, ageless HIV- straight dude, tender fun, fr/sp a+. Serious/discreet help. ☎ 71755

Male Menopause
Successful, accomplished, polished, healthy and fit, fortysomething prof GWM seeks cute, emotionally available thirtysomething GM to share anachronistic values like honesty, integrity, tenderness, Midnight Mass. Ability to speak in complete sentences a plus. ☎ 71756

Seeking Younger Man For Love!
You are gdl'g. 18-45, and attracted to older men (I'm 78) for sharing love and good sex. I'm open to being a good daddy or-and master too. ☎ 71768

"Thai Men!"
Love to meet Thai men for a steady dating relationship before I leave for Bangkok in June. GWM- passive 6ft. 165lbs. ☎ 71769

~New 21 Year old To SF!!!~
Single, attractive, 21 yr old seeks 18-26 yr old athletic muscular guys for A relationship or casual dating. Romantic inquiries only. ☎ 71770

Qt Lain ISO Hot Daddy
Moved away from SF and would like to come back and have a ltr. I am 57", 145#, vgl, bottom. Call me! ☎ 71786

"Ride Em Cowboy!"
Where do retired bull riders go? Pacific N.W. Country boy at heart 41, low mileage, lean, slender, versatile, fun-loving romantic seeks soul mate, extra points for masculine in shape, mature strong man. Travel, host. ☎ 71771

ISO Any Slender Intelligent/ Guy
GWM, bl, balding, white hair, dark chest hair, big cock, uncultured, not diseased, NS/ND, ub2. Hate ads, over population. Love liberal politics. I'm versatile, prefer top, passion play for sex pot. ☎ 71772

Ride Em Cowboy If You Can Rope
Me, you can ride me. Retired bull rider wants more than 8 second ride. 41 GWM wrangler butt, goatee seeks 2 steppin rebel rouser bunkhouse fun, into mature, strong hung. I travel. Host versatile. HIV+ poz ok. ☎ 71773

Cute Young Russian
Is looking for a cute intelligent European, Russian or Italian preferable, to become really close friends to share interests, sex and other pleasures. Be humorous, smart and under 40. ☎ 71784

18yo Blk Boy Seeks Companion
Someone open minded and friendly and ab fab lovin. 5'10", 145lbs brn eyes brn skin blk hair. ☎ 71785

Relationship Oriented Asian
Sweet, romantic, loves good conversation, 30's, 5'10", 143lb, small chest, strong legs (marathoner's body) with nice bubble buns HIV- bottom ISO pleasant looking top man with heart for meaningful relationship. ☎ 71787

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Masculine Bottom Needs Horse
Gd/king, masculine dude, 5'10", aub/grn, age 35 discreet, needs horse hung for ongoing action. Into total service, no-nonsense hook ups. HIV+ yeah! ☎ 71741

Your Buddies Think You're Str8
You'd rather watch Ufc than Qaf; rather fist+fight than dance; shave your head, not your pees; fuck and get fucked hard and rough. Tough, rugged, hairy, skinhead leatherman wants you. ☎ 71742

Italian Guys I Am Honestly
Looking for Italian guys who are attractive or hung for a relationship to party or just to have fun. ☎ 71745

Hung Hispanic Guys Needed
I'm looking for Hispanic guys who are hung 8 or 9 or 10 inches or more, to party, watch videos, suck j.o., etc. ☎ 71744

Gentle Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO gentle senior men who enjoy lots of sensual oral attention & affection. Facial hair, non-buffed A+, but all welcome. Threesomes some kink ok but no gay scene or drugs. ☎ 71746

Black/White X-Rated Fun
GWM 49, 5'11" 180 masculine, fit, well hung and very sexual seeks Black males for videos, j.o. and nude beaches. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71747

Weightlifting Nude
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Strip down, workout, or watch me workout. Am 49, 5'9", 190. ☎ 71757

Submissive Asn Bottom 4 Tops
Feel the squeezing of my tight hole now on your hard cock. Let me rim & suck you for foreplay. You: 18-48, GWM A+. Let's meet. ☎ 71758

Black On Top, Brown On Bottom
Mature, endowed Black top man seeks mature Latino gentlemen who enjoys a raw back door pounding. Dark skin, dark hair and moustache big turn-ons. Husky bottoms welcome also. ☎ 71759

Hot, Husky & Horny
Goodk GWM, 34, 5'9", 170, very muscular legs & butt, nice cock w/handsome, husky build seeks daytime fun w/20-50 y/o gay/bl male. ☎ 71760

Palo Alto GAM 38 5'11" 190 Like
To give oral to guys under 50 w/no recip-just stand or lay back. Have car will travel. Med to large cock appreciated. ☎ 71761

Sub SM BD TT FF WS Rim VA CBT
Merciless, gagging, choking, skull fucking. Boot, foot worship. Flogging, whipping, strapping, paddling. Me 35, smooth, HIV+. You: dom, clean, sane, sadistic. Tat's, piercing +++. ☎ 71762

"Young Asian Butt To Plow!"
Hottest Asian tide hole to fuck I.B. Under 25 and ready to take it. ☎ 71743

•Latins Wanted!•
Expert oral service provided by 2 cocksuckers. Double your pleasure. Must be disease free- in shape and hot. Ricans, Mexicans, Dominican, Cubans, Brazilians A plus! ☎ 71774

Older Men Seniors Retired Suck
Bl WM 49 prefers older men, 60's, 70's- straight or gay Black, White, Latino, Asian. Would you like a blow job? I would love to suck your cock for you. ☎ 71775

ISO Aggressive NBay Leather/Top
U: exp FF, CBT, SM, BD, neg hung built sane. Me: x-milit, neg bottom gives up his bud, intense sessions, equipped river location, experienced only. Let's talk Sir, Robert. ☎ 71776

"Fuck Me!"
In shape 6'1", 200lb. W/M needs a smooth, slender, top with a large cock to fuck me on a regular basis. ☎ 71777

Oral Sex Buddy
Asian, 50, 5'8", 150#, moustache, cleancut, goodlooking, HIV-, versatile, oral expert seeks GWM or Latin, HIV- for oral sex on regular basis, hair body A+. ☎ 71788

Discreet, Masculine Guy 4 Hunk
Slenderly muscled, 6'3", fair, attractive 44yo. Wants passionate play with powerfully built, masculine top. Am clean-living, std-free, and want us both to feel great. ☎ 71789

Bear Wants Punk Boy
You are pierced or tattooed, mostly smooth, thin and very oral. I am hairy, big build, 50's 200, 6, in shape and want to touch your hot body. ☎ 71790

Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking topman, 37, 5'11", 170#, work out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71791

Naked On Your Knees
Lean dominant verbal role player 43 needs a lean masculine submissive guy 20 to 40's to follow orders in safe role play fantasy. ☎ 71792

FETISHES

Mature FF Bottom 51
Seeks FF top who likes to dominate hungry dads. Leather optional. Seek regular buddy. ☎ 71763

Three Company For Drag Queens
Me bl-HM, 54-ISO drag queens for my virgin- three-some, 69, French/Greek, j/o, like wearing Victoria Secrets, no b.s. discreet. ☎ 71779

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You order, I obey, you sex, I don't, you feed, I drink. Am 59+ healthy + slim + bottom. Phone. ☎ 71793

Pig Daddy
Raunchy cigar smoking leather pig. 45, 5'10", 165. Crew cut lkg for pig boys/cubs for raunch play, leather sex. Any age/race. Can sub for right boy, WB ☎ 71794

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Fit solid Oakland WM 55 5'8" 170# seeks sub for bdsm and oral servitude. Activities, limits arranged for mutual satisfaction. Clean, no drugs. ☎ 71795

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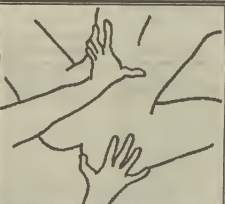
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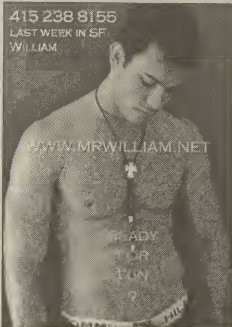
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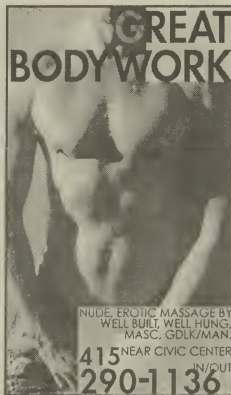
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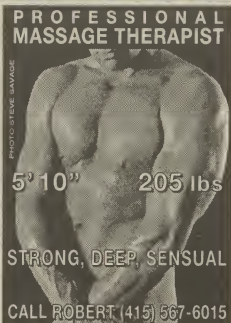
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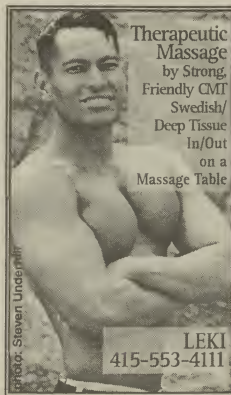
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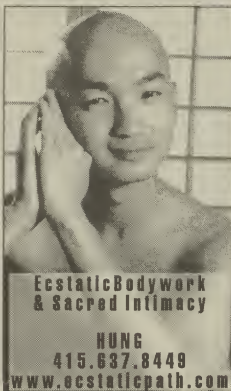
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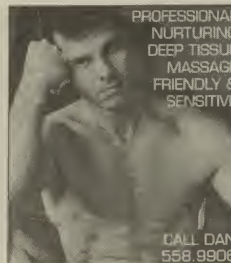
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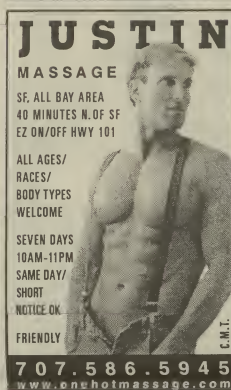
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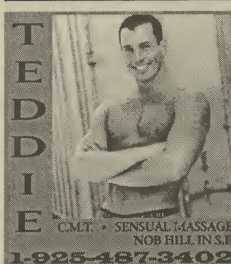
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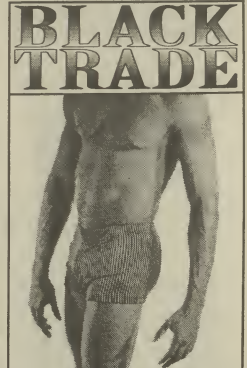
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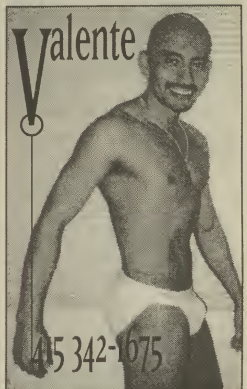
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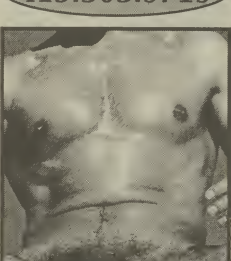


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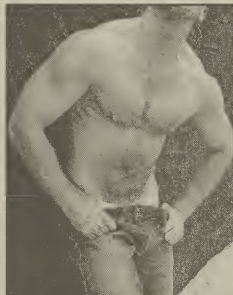
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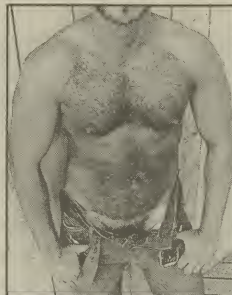
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

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